

# Between “America First” and “Chinese dream”: What the EU and Japan can do together

13-14 DECEMBER 2018

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VIA DEI PETTINARI, 64 – ROME

EU-Japan relations have received a major boost with the signing of a major trade accord and a strategic partnership agreement this year. The EU and Japan have decided to upgrade their partnership against a background of increasing international trade and political tensions. Trump’s ‘America First’ and protectionist policies along with Xi Jinping’s ‘Chinese dream’ and growing assertiveness in Asia are challenging the liberal international order created after the end of the Second World War.

This conference brings together a distinguished group of experts from Japan and Europe to analyze and discuss current dynamics and prospect of EU-Japan relations, including discussion as to whether it is now up to Brussels and Tokyo to uphold the liberal international order being challenged by Xi and Trump.

*Working Language: English*

## AGENDA

### DAY ONE, 13 DECEMBER 2018

13:30-14:00

**REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

14:00-14:30

**WELCOME ADDRESS AND CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION**

**Chair**

**Nathalie Tocci**, Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

**Speakers**

**Keiichi Katakami**, Ambassador of Japan to Italy

**Giorgio Aliberti**, Head of North East Asia Division, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rome

14:30-16:00

**FIRST SESSION**

**Chair**

**Nicola Casarini**, Senior Fellow, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

**Panel**

*Trump's 'America First' and EU-Japan relations*

**Michito Tsuruoka**, Associate Professor, Keio University, and Research Fellow, Tokyo Foundation, Tokyo

**Marie Söderberg**, Director, European Institute of Japanese Studies, Stockholm School of Economics, Stockholm

**Roland Honekamp**, Desk Officer for Japan (Political), European External Action Service, Brussels

**Maike Okano-Heijmans**, Senior Research Fellow, Clingendael Institute, The Hague, Netherlands

*Open debate*

16:00-16:15

**COFFEE BREAK**

16:15-17:45

## SECOND SESSION

*Xi's "Chinese Dream" and EU-Japan relations*

### Chair

**Riccardo Alcaro**, Research Coordinator, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

### Panel

**Hiroko Maeda**, Research Fellow, PHP Research Institute, The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Tokyo

**Alice Ekman**, Research Fellow and Head of China research, Center for Asian Studies, Institut français des relations internationales, Paris

**Giulio Pugliese**, Lecturer in War Studies, King's College, London

**Fraser Cameron**, Director, EU-Asia Centre, Brussels

*Open debate*

## DAY TWO, 14 DECEMBER 2018

09:00-09:30

## REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

09:30-11:00

## THIRD SESSION

*The Korean Peninsula after the Kim-Trump summit: prospects for EU-Japan cooperation*

### Chair

**Giulia Pompili**, Asia correspondent of the Italian daily *Il Foglio*, Rome

### Panel

**Yoji Koda**, Vice Admiral (Ret.), Japan Maritime Self Defense Force, Tokyo

**Axel Berkofsky**, Professor, University of Pavia, and Senior Associate Research Fellow, Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale, Milan

**Lorenzo Mariani**, Korea Research Fellow, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

**Silvia Menegazzi**, Adjunct Professor International Relations, LUISS Guido Carli University, Rome

*Open debate*

11:00-11:15

## COFFEE BREAK

11:15-12:45

**FOURTH SESSION**

*China's assertiveness and territorial disputes in the Asia-Pacific:  
Comparing European and Japanese perspectives*

**Chair**

**Nicola Casarini**, Senior Fellow, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

**Panel**

**Bonji Ohara**, Senior Fellow, The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Tokyo

**Liselotte Odgaard**, Associate Professor, Institute for Strategy, Royal Danish Defence College, Copenhagen

**Gudrun Wacker**, Senior Fellow, Asia Division, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin

*Open debate*

12:45-13:00

**CLOSING REMARKS**

13:00-14:00

**LUNCH**

