Japan’s policy towards Europe is guided by a shared sense of global responsibility, shared values and common challenges. To date the evident potential in our relationship has not yet been fully utilised, the two agreements which we are now negotiating in tandem seek to elevate our relationship on to a higher level. Our policy towards Europe is shaped by what we see in the EU and in Japan, and based on the fact that a strong Japan-EU relationship can have profoundly positive impact on the world.

I) Japan’s view of the EU

Shared Values

- The importance of the EU to Japan is based upon its core values and offers the strongest foundation for relations.
- Shared values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

Agenda Setting

- Cultural and technological influence of the EU.
- EU as a key partner in new global challenges.

Sense of Global Responsibility

- Greatest impact on Japan’s view of the EU.
- Common foreign and security policy and overall influence of the EU has grown.

II) Japan’s policies and priorities

Japan’s Challenges

- Japan searching for a new paradigm to overcome various challenges.
- Challenges: from geo-political challenges, terrorism and non-proliferation, to an aging society, low growth and natural disasters, etc.

Japan’s Nation Security Strategy

- Establishment of the National Security Council and adoption of the National Security Strategy (NSS).
- “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation.

III) Japan-EU relations

The Japan-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement

- Different from other agreements in terms of coverage and depth, reflecting the level of commitment to the responsibilities that global players should carry.
- An agreement to create a new impetus for deeper cooperation in the fields of peace and security.

Concrete areas for Japan-EU cooperation

- Strengthen the rule of law in global commons such as the seas, cyberspace, and outer space.
- Peace building and development assistance; notably CSDP missions, Ebola crisis, Syria, etc.