

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



ASIA
Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand

Brussels, **16 NOV. 2011**
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Dear Mr Hayashi,

Catherine Ashton, the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, has asked me to reply to your e-mail of 20 October on EU-Japan relations which you also sent to Commission President Barroso and Trade Commissioner De Gucht.

As you will be aware, the May 2011 EU-Japan Summit decided that the two sides would start discussions with a view to defining the scope and level of ambition for the negotiation of a deep and comprehensive Free Trade Agreement as well as a parallel binding Framework Agreement covering political, global and other sectoral cooperation, which would upgrade all aspects of the relationship in a balanced, comprehensive and substantial manner.

We are currently involved in this "scoping exercise" to try to agree on the parameters for a possible negotiation. I very much hope that we can make progress in this exercise in order to set the high level of ambition that would be needed for successful launch of negotiations.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan HATWELL
Head of Division

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