

Joint Press Statement
5th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of
the Visegrad Group plus Japan
Delhi-NCR, India, 11 November 2013

On 11 November 2013 in Delhi-NCR, India, Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Visegrad Group and Japan met for the fifth time in this format. The Ministers, reaffirming that the V4 plus Japan partnership is based on shared values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, reviewed the progress in their cooperation since the Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Budapest in June 2011 and in the implementation of the Joint Statement adopted by the Prime Ministers on the occasion of V4 plus Japan summit meeting in Warsaw in June 2013. The meeting concentrated on the following topics:

I. Cooperation in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) and Western Balkans

The Ministers discussed the developments in the countries of the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkans and reaffirmed their commitment to support the evolution of these countries towards sustainable democracies and market economies. In this regard, Japan fully supported related initiatives of the International Visegrad Fund programs in countries of the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkans.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) cooperation

The Ministers reaffirmed their willingness to cooperate in the field of Official Development Assistance. The V4 and Japan appreciated the successful V4 plus Japan ODA Seminar which took place on 6 November 2013 in Budapest, with a special focus on development cooperation in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries. As a result of the Seminar, both sides decided that the V4 countries would dispatch experts to take part in specific development projects being implemented by Japan in the energy field of Serbia, in the SME capacity building of Serbia, Bosnia

and Herzegovina and Montenegro and in the health care field of Moldova. Both sides welcomed the involvement of V4 experts in first joint V4 plus Japan ODA projects in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries.

Events related to the Eastern Partnership

The Ministers highlighted the role of the EU's Eastern Partnership in the transformation of the Eastern Partnership countries to sustainable democracy and a market economy. They reaffirmed the will to coordinate activities of the V4 and Japan in the areas of democracy, fundamental freedoms, rule of law, enabling the progress of reforms, and facilitating the establishment of a market economy in the countries concerned. Japan reiterated its support for the EU Eastern Partnership Policy. They expressed their hope that the forthcoming Eastern Partnership Summit to be held in Vilnius on 28 and 29 November will be successful.

The V4 and Japan reconfirmed the importance of the growing interest in the Eastern Partnership among citizens of both sides, especially among young people.

II. Cooperation in the security areas

Interlinking Security in East Asia and Europe

The Ministers reconfirmed the close linkage of security in East Asia and Europe, which was recognized by the leaders during the V4 plus Japan Summit Meeting, and expressed their willingness to enhance mutual understanding of their respective security concerns in the regions. Japan stressed its resolve to proactively contribute even more to peace and stability in the region and the world, based on the principle of international cooperation. The V4 welcomed Japan's commitment to regional and global security issues, crisis management and peacekeeping efforts and underlined its interest in exploring the scope for enhanced cooperation with Japan in the security field. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of adhering to the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In this regard, they acknowledged the importance of maintaining effective export controls of

arms and dual-use items and technologies.

North Korea

The V4 and Japan reiterated their grave concern over North Korea's nuclear and missile development programs, including its uranium enrichment program. Both sides strongly urged North Korea to take concrete actions towards denuclearization as well as to fully comply with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and the 2005 Six-Party Talks Joint Statement. Both sides also strongly urged North Korea to address without delay the human rights concerns.

Dialogue on security issues

For the purpose of further deepening mutual understanding, the V4 and Japan reiterated the importance of putting more emphasis on discussions concerning security issues within the V4 plus Japan framework.

The Ministers also welcomed the V4 plus Japan Security Seminar to be held in 2014 in Tokyo.

Japan expressed its intention to dispatch governmental official to the well-established forum in Central Europe on global security "GLOBSEC BRATISLAVA" to be held in the spring 2014 in Bratislava to further deepen the understanding of the security situation of East Asia in Europe.

Cooperation in the UN

The V4 and Japan reaffirmed the importance of the UN reform, with particular emphasis on the Security Council. Both sides reemphasized the necessity to improve its effectiveness, transparency and representativeness in order to reflect the reality of today's international community in view of 70 years anniversary of UN in 2015. In this respect, both sides reiterated their will to work together to achieve reform of the UN Security Council, including increasing the number of the permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council, as it was confirmed on the V4 plus Japan Summit Meeting held in June 2013 in Warsaw.

III. Cooperation in the fields of economy, energy and climate change

The Ministers expressed their intention to enhance economic relations under a common goal to develop result-oriented cooperation. They reconfirmed the importance of improving their investment environment and further strengthening overall economic relations, including promoting Japan-V4 trade relations based on scientific findings as appropriate.

The V4 and Japan expressed their willingness to enhance cooperation on energy security. Japan reaffirmed its duty to contribute to strengthening worldwide nuclear safety by sharing knowledge and lessons learned from the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. Both sides consider energy efficiency important, pay special attention to the use of renewable energy sources and promote together the development of innovative technologies in the field of energy.

Climate change

The Ministers confirmed their resolve to work together towards a new, fair and effective international agreement to be established by 2015 applicable to all Parties of the UNFCCC. They expressed their support to the Polish COP19/CMP9 Presidency to lead the negotiations transparently and inclusively with full participation of all Parties, respecting legal procedures and acknowledging variety of interests and opinions represented by the Parties to the UNFCCC.

IV. Japan – EU relations

The V4 and Japan confirmed the importance of the Japan-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) as a comprehensive and forward-looking document, and expressed their desire that the agreement should appropriately reflect the EU-Japan relations as like-minded global partners sharing fundamental values and principles.

The Ministers reaffirmed that the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) / Free Trade Agreement (FTA), negotiated in parallel with the SPA, should substantially improve access to markets for Japanese

and V4's companies in a balanced manner and thus strengthen economic relations between both sides.

The V4 and Japan committed themselves to working towards that goal and striving to the earliest possible conclusion of both EPA and SPA.

V. Perspectives of Cooperation in the Field of Science, Technology and Innovation

Being faced with common challenges the V4 and Japan recognized crucial role of international science, technology and innovation cooperation on the road toward knowledge based economies and societies. In this respect, both sides expressed their intention to support closer interaction of our scientific communities via bilateral links as well as within the V4+Japan schemes adding value to and reflecting well developed EU-Japan science and technology cooperation. The Ministers underlined the need to identify appropriate conditions for the execution of science and technology cooperation.

Both sides praised the results of the first V4+Japan science and technology workshop which was organized by the Slovak Academy of Science, International Visegrad Fund and Japan Science and Technology Agency in July 2013 in Slovakia, and strongly encouraged the follow-up seminars being held in the future in Japan and in V4 countries. In this context, both sides welcomed the Polish proposal to organize the science and technology workshop on advanced materials in Warsaw in September 2014.

VI. Promoting people-to-people contacts

The V4 welcomed the recent decision that the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020 will be hosted by Tokyo. Both sides expressed their willingness to strengthen their relations through sports exchange by taking opportunity of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020.

V4 plus Japan Exchange Year 2014

The Ministers expressed their praise and support for the forthcoming V4 plus Japan Exchange Year, an initiative that will receive significant

impetus from the Goodwill Ambassadors recently announced by each country.

As relevant events of the Exchange Year, the V4 and Japan decided to hold the V4 plus Japan Joint Concert in March 2014 and Tourism Seminar in April 2014 in Tokyo. In addition, both sides welcomed the holding of the Japanese Study Conference scheduled in February 2014 in Budapest.

The Ministers presented the logo of the V4 plus Japan Exchange Year 2014.

VII. Conclusion

The Ministers reiterated their willingness to continue to meet in this format on a biennial basis using such occasions as ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting for the further strengthening of the V4 plus Japan relationship. Their next meeting should be held in 2015.

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