

Statement by President Prodi on the Outcome of the EU-Japan Summit

Tokyo, 19 July 2000

EU-Japan relations have never been better than today. A sense of shared interests, mutual respect and commitment to fundamental values cements our relationship. We have launched a decade of co-operation (2001-2011).

As two major economic and regional powers, accounting for two-fifths of the world economy, the EU and Japan can only achieve more by acting together. We see eye-to-eye on most issues of common concern.

We have given today a decisive impetus to the overall EU-Japan relationship and defined ambitious objectives for a comprehensive and action-oriented partnership.

I say "comprehensive" because our decisions today deal with the strategic aspects of broader political co-operation to promote peace and stability in our respective continents and wider afield, to pool our efforts and to tackle the challenges which confront us.

With our co-operative approach on economic and trade relations we are now doing more to improve investment flows and in the area of competition where we intend to conclude an agreement soon.

Our co-operation on WTO issues is excellent and we are determined to try to launch a new comprehensive round in the course of this year.

We have a lot of work to do in the year to come to enhance our overall relations. We have an excellent basis on which to build.