



Tokyo, 28 October 2013  
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## STATEMENT

**by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton  
during her visit to Japan**

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

*"I am delighted to be back in Japan, where I met today Foreign Minister Mr Fumio Kishida and Defence Minister Mr Itsunori Onodera. I also called upon the Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives, Mr Sunichi Suzuki.*

*We took stock of our bilateral relations and discussed our common objectives for the forthcoming EU-Japan Summit. We also discussed global and regional issues of common concern.*

*I was briefed on developments in Japan's security and defence policy, and welcomed steps that would allow Japan more proactively to contribute as a global security provider, while noting the need to communicate carefully with regional partners on this. I outlined the work I am leading in the EU in strengthening the Common Security and Defence Policy, and we agreed to look for ways to work more closely together in this area.*

*Minister Kishida and I reviewed progress in the ongoing negotiations on the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) and the Free Trade Agreement (FTA). I underlined the importance of reaching ambitious and comprehensive agreements, while making progress on addressing Non-tariff barriers. We agreed that the forthcoming EU-Japan Summit should give further impetus to this process.*

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*We also agreed today that the Summit would take place on 19 November in Tokyo. We expect it to focus on three themes: how to build upon and sustain the economic revival we are now seeing on both sides, and the contribution this will make to stabilising the global economy; how to build a closer partnership on foreign and security policy; and what we do to take forward our shared global interests "*

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