

“The Second Japan-Europe Intellectual Dialogue:  
Seeking Japan-Europe Joint Strategy  
Toward Peace and Prosperity of the World with Ever Increasing Uncertainty”

## **Outline of Discussions**

November 15, 2016

The Japan Forum on International Relations

The Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) co-organized “The Second Japan-Europe Intellectual Dialogue: Seeking Japan-Europe Joint Strategy toward Peace and Prosperity of the World with Ever Increasing Uncertainty,” at The Ritz-Carlton Tokyo on November 15, 2016. This “Dialogue” is the second in a series, the first one having being organized last year.

This year’s “Dialogue” was attended by eight panelists from Europe, including Karel LANNOO, CEO of the Centre for European Policy Studies (EU), Gerard LYONS, Chief Economic Advisor of Policy Exchange (U.K.) and Andrzej TALAGA, Director of Strategy of Warsaw Enterprise Institute (Poland), as well as eleven panelists from Japan, including MORIMOTO Satoshi, Director of JFIR (former Minister of Defense), SHIMADA Haruo, Director of JFIR and IIDA Keisuke, Professor of the University of Tokyo.

This “Dialogue” aims to depict today's international security environment with focus on the United States as an Asia-Pacific country, thereby trying to establish shared recognition between Japan and Europe on the importance of their cooperation in responding to political, economic, and security issues in a world with ever increasing uncertainty.

Lively discussions were held on such topics as “Forecast of the U.S. Asia-Pacific Strategy and Europe Strategy under its new Presidency” and “What should Japan and Europe jointly encourage the U.S. to do now?” in two sessions. As the “Dialogue” was convened behind the closed doors, only the brief summary of the discussions is introduced as follows;

In Session I, the European side pointed out that the future course of U.S foreign policy under the new presidency holds any potentialities both politically and economically. But this suggests the “strategic ambiguity” of the U.S. which might turn out to be its strength. In fact, Mr. Trump has made remarks to that effect. Therefore, there is no need, at this stage, to be over-pessimistic about the decline of the U.S influence in the world.

In Session II, the European side pointed out that while Japan and Europe have every reason to continue to encourage the U.S. to maintain its military presence in their respective countries, the claim of Mr. TRUMP that the burden-sharing in the alliance with the U.S. should be re-examined makes sense to some extent. Therefore, both Japan and Europe should improve their own defense capabilities and thereby become more reliable allies to the U.S.

