EU/Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement

2018/0122M(NLE) - 23/11/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the report by Alojz PETERLE (EPP, SI) containing a motion for a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Japan, of the other part.

Members welcomed the conclusion of the draft Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA), which provides a legally binding framework, **strengthens EU-Japan bilateral relations and increases cooperation in more than 40 areas**, such as foreign policy and security issues, emergency relief operations, humanitarian aid, economic matters, research, education, food safety, agricultural policy, space technology, culture and sport, as well as on global challenges that require global coordination such as climate change, migration, cyberthreats, public health, cross-border crime, peace-building operations, crisis and disaster management and the fight against terrorism.

Members reaffirmed the shared commitment to **respect for human rights**, democracy, fundamental freedoms, good governance and the rule of law, and common values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They called on the Union to enter into a dialogue with the Japanese government with a view to a moratorium on capital punishment and its possible abolition. They also highlighted the need for increased cooperation on women's rights.

Members called for, among other things:

- the expansion of EU-Japan **bilateral cooperation and multilateral cooperation** with South Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States and China with a view to achieving and maintaining peace and stability in the region, peaceful coexistence on the Korean peninsula and the full, irreversible and verifiable denuclearisation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;
- the development of synergies between Japan’s Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy and EU initiatives, including the EU Investment Plan and the extended EU Trans-European Transport Networks, in order to promote global cooperation in connectivity;
- the strengthening of **educational and cultural dialogue**, university mobility programmes under Erasmus+, and public diplomacy with a view to promoting mutual understanding and cultural diversity;
- intensifying cooperation in the field of **sustainable energy**, for example by developing low-emission forms of transport;
- the suspension of whaling for scientific purposes and the lifting of Japan's reservations to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- further exchange of good practices regarding **illegal logging**;
- the exchange of information and cooperation to **end cosmetics testing on animals** in Japan.

Members called for the swift ratification of the provisional agreement by the parliaments of the EU Member States and for its thorough implementation in all sectors.