

FCO/POL/40/13

The Embassy of Japan in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has the honour to submit comment of the Government of Japan to the Review of the Balance of Competences between the United Kingdom and the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the “Review”) as follows.

The Government of Japan understands that this issue should be primarily reviewed and studied by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereinafter referred to as the “UK”) and its people with a long-term perspective.

At the same time, the Government of Japan hopes that the Review will be a constructive contribution for both the UK as a Member State of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the “EU”) and the entire EU.

Japan shares with the UK fundamental values, as well as interests and responsibilities regarding the challenges which the international community is facing. Japan and the UK have been working closely not only in a bilateral context, but also in the context of Japan-EU relations. The Government of Japan appreciates the role that the UK has played in activities of the EU in various fields such as politics, economy and security.

The Government of Japan recognises that the EU has a large presence and influence in the international community. The Government is committed to strengthening the relationship with the EU more than ever before.

In the context mentioned above, the Government expects that the UK will

maintain a strong voice and continue to play a major role in the EU.

The UK, as a champion of free trade, is a reliable partner for Japan. More than 1,300 Japanese companies have invested in the UK, as part of the Single Market of the EU, and created 130,000 jobs, the largest employment in Europe. This fact demonstrates that the advantage of the UK as a gateway to the European market has attracted Japanese investment. The Government of Japan expects that such UK's advantage should always be maintained.

In addition, the Government appreciates that the UK has been leading the deregulation or rationalisation of regulations within the EU and making significant contributions in order to make the EU market more attractive for foreign companies. In this context, Japanese companies operating in the UK express their expectations that deregulation or rationalisation of regulations through the EU mechanism will be further promoted. The Government of Japan expects the determination and efforts of the Government of the UK towards completion of the Single Market of the EU.

The Government of Japan further expects that certain aspects of the EU's external relations, such as the speed of decision-making or clarity of the channel of communication, would be further improved through the Review.

The Embassy of Japan avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the assurances of its highest consideration.

LONDON, 28th February 2013

