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## **High Representative Catherine Ashton holds talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada**

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, met today with Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada in Tokyo.

During their meeting, both parties discussed a wide range of foreign policy and security issues such as nuclear proliferation, development, trade and relations with Iran, China and Africa.

High Representative Ashton and Foreign Minister Okada principally agreed to explore ways to enhance cooperation in eradicating piracy off the coast of Africa.

Catherine Ashton said: *"If we are going to be successful in fighting piracy, we need to collaborate globally. I look forward to working more closely with Japan and our other partners around the world to eradicate this problem which attempts to undermine stability in the region."*

The High Representative also agreed to investigate Mr Okada's specific proposal of setting up joint police training missions in Africa and Afghanistan.

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**P R E S S**

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