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Milan, 16 October 2014

**Press statement following the meeting between
Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council,
José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission,
and the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe**

Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, and José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, met with Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe, on 16 October 2014, in the margins of the ASEM Summit in Milan, to discuss EU-Japan relations, as well as global and regional issues.

Both sides underlined the importance of the EU-Japan strategic partnership and encouraged further progress in the twin negotiations on the Strategic Partnership and the Free Trade Agreement. Concluding ambitious and comprehensive agreements will allow the EU and Japan to work together more closely on matters of mutual interest and deliver tangible benefits for both sides.

The discussion of international issues focused on their respective neighbourhoods, especially the situation in Ukraine and regional security in East Asia.
