

## Event Report

Party Dialogue between the Christian Democratic/ Social Union and the Liberal Democratic Party  
Wednesday, 16 November 2022, 10:30 – 11:50

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On November 16, the Japan Office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, in cooperation with Minoru Kiuchi, Member of the House of Representatives of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) / Secretary-General of the Japan-German Parliamentary Friendship League, held the second party dialogue between the Christian Democratic/Social Union (CDU/CSU) and the LDP in the National Diet of Japan. The CDU/CSU members of the German Bundestag and the LDP members of the National Diet discussed the following topics.

### **【 Russian Aggression against Ukraine and Taiwan issue/German-Japanese Security Cooperation】**

The Japanese side underlined the importance of the **bilateral security cooperation between Germany and Japan**, stressing that what happened to Ukraine should not happen in the Indo-Pacific region, nor should it be allowed to spill over to the Taiwan Strait. They also noted that it is important to be united in protecting rules and order against hegemonial demands. A growing concern about declining support to Ukraine or growing fatigue towards the Russian aggression was raised.

In response to this, the German side stated that Europe is looking to Asia regardless of their strong ties with the U.S., and that **the dispatch of the frigate Bayern to the Indo-Pacific and the joint air fighter drills are examples of the new global defense perspective** of Germany. In addition, the parliamentarians expressed their gratitude to Japan for the country's strong support to Ukraine and its commitment to sanctions. Support to Ukraine will be continued. In addition, there is a need for increased pressure (to keep supporting Ukraine) on the reluctant German government by the parliament. Touching upon recent hikes of energy prices, the German MPs expressed a strong will to continue efforts to support Ukraine and to prevent Putin from winning this war. Hence,

building a relationship with Russia after the conflict will be a big challenge for almost any EU country.

Also, the Japanese side appreciated the recent German military engagement in the Indo-Pacific region and in Japan and looks forward to joint exercises with the SDF next year and beyond. It is of huge significance that the NATO members begins to show military presence in the region. Interpreted in terms of Taiwan, Germany will not remain silent in case of conflicts. For Japan, it is necessary to strengthen security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region with the U.S., Australia, India, and Europe.

### **【China and Economic Security】**

The discussion shifted to China and focused on economic security. Both sides shared worries about fragile semiconductor supply chains. Likeminded states need to cooperate to prevent China from acting outside international and agreed norms. The Japanese side pointed out that China has already practiced economic coercion for a decade by banning export of rare earths to Japan from the Senkaku Islands. So early on, Japan saw the necessity for decoupling. As a result, Japan implemented the Economic Security Act in 2022.

The German MPs noted their country's efforts to reduce dependence on raw materials from China. Hence, **bilateral cooperation between Germany and Japan as trade partners through the EU-Japan EPA needs to ensure that the WTO and other international orders are not neglected by China.** Given the recent investment in a terminal of the Hamburg Port by a Chinese COSCO, Germany needs to better protect its critical infrastructure and assets.

Both sides reiterated the necessity to continue the dialogue on an annual basis and institutionalize the meetings.