

Report on book launch in Brussels on 15 November 2018 for *EU-Japan Security Cooperation: Trends and Prospects*

A book launch event was held in Brussels for the publication of a book, edited by Emil Kirchner and Han Dorussen entitled **EU-Japan Security Cooperation: Trends and Prospects**. This book is the outcome of an Erasmus+ funded project at the University of Essex which is now coming to an end.

First, Professor Kirchner introduced the breadth of security topics covered and outlined the approach common to each chapter of assessing threat perception, convergence between the EU and Japan, and cooperation trends and prospects. He explained that each aspect of security had been co-authored by pairing EU and Japanese experts. Following presentations by several of the chapter authors on the substance of the book, an audience of around 50 heard presentations from



His Excellency Mr Akira Kono, Ambassador, Deputy Head of Mission, Japanese Mission of Japan to the EU and by Mr Reinhold Brender, Head of Division – Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand and Pacific of the European External Action Service on recent developments regarding the new agreements between the EU and Japan, the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA). These agreements will need to be fleshed out by practical cooperation between the two partners in many areas. The book was therefore heralded by both speakers as highly topical and relevant. A question and answer session raised further points of interest concerning the relations of the EU and Japan in a global context.

It was noted with interest on all sides that a new project, **EU-Asia Security Cooperation**, has recently been launched. Conversations were pursued over refreshments.

The book launch was generously hosted by the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) and the event was moderated by Axel Goethals, CEO of EIAS.

Susan Sydenham

