

**Statement of Ms. TOKU Satoko,
Charge' d'affaires, Embassy of Japan
Address by the Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the
Council of Europe, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for
Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Malta, H.E.Dr. Ian Borg
Permanent Council, OSCE
12 June, 2025**

Let me join others in welcoming H. E. Dr. Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and the Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to the Permanent Council.

Japan places importance on fundamental values and principles such as human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and has deepened cooperation with the Council of Europe, which has led the rule making of these fields in the international community.

Various diplomatic efforts by countries, including those of Europe and the United States, are tirelessly ongoing to achieve a just and lasting peace in Ukraine. Japan welcomes these efforts.

The security of the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions has become inseparable, as Russia's aggression against Ukraine, supported by North Korea's military cooperation, has shown. With this in mind, Japan has been working closely with OSCE and Council of Europe.

Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Borg,

This year marks 60 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Malta. We opened our Embassy in Malta in January 2024. Our bilateral relations have been deepened through high-level exchanges, including visits from our Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs in February 2024 and our State Minister for Foreign Affairs in December

2024.

Furthermore, as important partners sharing values and principles, Japan and Malta cooperated, in the international area, including the UN Security Council as non-permanent members for two years, from 2023 to 2024.

In the OSCE, we greatly value Malta's successful leadership as OSCE Chair last year and as the current Chair of the Asian Partners for Cooperation. We hope that, under Malta's leadership, the voices of the Asian partners, including concrete proposals such as those submitted by Japan following the small group consultations held in Vienna, will be considered by the current OSCE chair, Finland.

Finally, on July 7th, Japan and Malta will hold an Asia Partners Meeting on “Economic Connectivity”. In this meeting, we will discuss the relevance of European economic security to the Indo-Pacific region. We encourage active participation from many participating states.

I thank you.