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Contents

Anjo G. HARRYVAN

Japan, Philips and the Making of Europe's Single Market, 1984-1994

Hitoshi SUZUKI, Izuru MAKIHARA

**Japan-EEC/EU Relations, 1970-2005:
Re-Emergence as Strategic Partners in Trade and Environment**

Takeshi YAMAMOTO

Bilateral or Trilateral? Japan, the EC and the United States in the "Year of Europe"

Naoko KUMAGAI

Japan's Reconciliation in the Issue of Comfort Women with the Netherlands and South Korea: Pragmatic and Reflective Reconciliation

Tomoya KURODA

EC-ASEAN Relations in the 1970s as an Origin of the European Union-Asia Relationship

Ludovica MARCHI

The EU Promotion of Security Cooperation in the Non-European World: The Case of ASEAN and Myanmar

Robert TABASZEWSKI

Health as a Value in the Integration Policy of European and East Asian Countries. Historical and Legal Perspective

Paul RUSMAN

The Netherlands selling submarines to Taiwan: how to judge government action?

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Contents / Table des matières / Inhalt

Jan VAN DER HARST

Introduction 5

Anjo G. HARRYVAN

Japan, Philips and the Making of Europe's Single Market, 1984-1994 9

Hitoshi SUZUKI, Izuru MAKIHARA

Japan-EEC/EU Relations, 1970-2005: Re-Emergence as Strategic Partners in Trade and Environment 23

Takeshi YAMAMOTO

Bilateral or Trilateral? Japan, the EC and the United States in the "Year of Europe" 37

Naoko KUMAGAI

Japan's Reconciliation in the Issue of Comfort Women with the Netherlands and South Korea: Pragmatic and Reflective Reconciliation 51

Tomoya KURODA

EC-ASEAN Relations in the 1970s as an Origin of the European Union-Asia Relationship 65

Ludovica MARCHI

The EU Promotion of Security Cooperation in the Non-European World: The Case of ASEAN and Myanmar 81

Robert TABASZEWSKI

Health as a Value in the Integration Policy of European and East Asian Countries.

Historical and Legal Perspective 99

Paul RUSMAN

The Netherlands selling submarines to Taiwan: how to judge government
action? 111

Book reviews – Comptes rendus – Buchbesprechungen 125

PHD Theses – Thèses de doctorat – Doktorarbeiten 137

Information – Informations – Informationen 141

Abstracts – Résumés – Zusammenfassungen 143

Contributors – Auteurs – Autoren 155

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The Liaison Committee of Historians came into being in 1982 as a result of an important international symposium that the Commission had organized in Luxembourg to launch historical research on European integration. The committee is composed of historians of the European Union member countries who work on contemporary history.

The Liaison Committee:

- gathers and conveys information about work on European history after the Second World War;
- advises the European Union on research projects concerning contemporary European history. Thus, the Liaison Committee was commissioned to make publicly available the archives of the Community institutions;
- enables researchers to make better use of the archival sources;
- promotes research meetings to get an update of work in progress and to stimulate new research: research conferences have been organized and their proceedings published.

The Journal of European Integration History – Revue d'histoire de l'intégration européenne – Zeitschrift für Geschichte der europäischen Integration is in line with the preoccupations of the Liaison Committee. Being the first history journal to deal exclusively with the history of European Integration, the Journal offers the increasing number of young historians devoting their research to contemporary Europe a permanent forum.

The Liaison Committee works completely independently and according to historians' critical method.

*

Le Groupe de liaison des professeurs d'histoire contemporaine auprès de la Commission des Communautés européennes s'est constitué en 1982 à la suite d'un grand colloque que la Commission avait organisé à Luxembourg pour lancer la recherche historique sur la construction européenne. Il regroupe des professeurs d'université des pays membres de l'Union européenne, spécialistes d'histoire contemporaine.

Le Groupe de liaison a pour mission:

- de diffuser l'information sur les travaux portant sur l'histoire de l'Europe après la Seconde Guerre mondiale;
- de conseiller l'Union européenne sur les actions scientifiques à entreprendre avec son appui; ainsi le Groupe de liaison a assuré une mission concernant la mise à la disposition du public des archives des institutions communautaires;
- d'aider à une meilleure utilisation par les chercheurs des moyens de recherche mis à leur disposition (archives, sources orales...);
- d'encourager des rencontres scientifiques afin de faire le point sur les connaissances acquises et de susciter de nouvelles recherches: grands colloques ont été organisés et leur actes publiés.

L'édition du *Journal of European Integration History – Revue d'histoire de l'intégration européenne – Zeitschrift für Geschichte der europäischen Integration* se situe dans le droit fil des préoccupations du Groupe de liaison. Première revue d'histoire à se consacrer exclusivement à l'histoire de la construction européenne, le Journal se propose de fournir un forum permanent au nombre croissant de jeunes historiens vouant leurs recherches à l'Europe contemporaine.

Le Groupe de liaison organise ses colloques et publications en toute indépendance et conformément à la méthode critique qui est celle des historiens.

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