

2017 Korea-EU Forum

1. Political Session

In the political session, the issue of EU's involvement in the East Asian security landscape, and the European experience on nuclear deterrence were discussed.

- The 1st presentation assessed that it will be difficult to achieve the denuclearization of North Korea solely through economic sanctions, because sanctions can be successful only if China participates. While sanctions may be successful in the short run, North Korea will not renounce its nuclear program. In the long run, it is necessary to engage North Korea and pursue the marketization of the North Korean economy by injecting market principles and values into North Korea. The speaker suggested that the EU should at first participate in the sanctions, which calls upon all members of the international community. However, the EU should continue its efforts to change the economic system in North Korea, continuing to engage the Korean peninsula and bring about change in North Korea.

- The 2nd speaker characterized the EU as an international actor not only in the economic sense, but in a political sense in that it pursues normative power which differentiates the EU from other great powers. The EU's concept of power seeks the expansion of normative values and ideals. It is also characterized by its reliance on non-military means and usage of multilateral approaches. The EU can engage North Korea in this capacity, by calling on North Korea to embrace the EU's normative values, and acting as an honest broker to various proposals aimed at North Korea. It was argued that the EU's emphasis on peaceful, non-military measures actually facilitates the participation and engagement of the EU.

- The 3rd presentation described the basic foundation of the EU's North Korea policy as critical engagement, which utilizes sanctions and dialogue simultaneously. While North Korea's nuclear program should be sanctioned, humanitarian economic assistance should be provided for the survival of North Koreans. The EU also looks forward to providing an opportunity for systemic change in North Korea's economy, which could ultimately resolve the current situation.

Discussion / Conclusion

- The session's discussion centered around the need for people to people exchanges with North Korea, and education on market economy. South Korea's government has repeatedly called for the dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear program, and hopes that EU nations will provide information and assistance in the process. China should take a more active role in sanctions, and assure that its businesses do not cooperate with North Korea.

- It was concluded while the EU cannot be a military actor, it should be noted that EU can influence China and Russia. The EU could work towards increasing human capital in North Korea, and provide education on how market economy functions. The EU can serve as a normative power in Northeast Asia, performing a peacekeeping or peace-watching role. Also, in sanctioning North Korea, coordination with the EU is essential. Nonproliferation is not simply a goal for North Korea's case, but an important agenda to guarantee the survival of the world. Europe experience with nuclear deterrence and Russia could prove to be useful.

2. Economic Session

The main discussion points for the economic session were the EU-Korea FTA and the future of global economic governance.

- The 1st presentation emphasized that the EU is the largest investor in Korea since 2014, and analyzed that the increase in Korea's trade deficit with the EU is due to sluggish economic recovery in Europe, and because Korean businesses have set up production facilities in ASEAN nations. The EU-Korea FTA has yielded positive results in terms of lowering trade barriers and increasing the competitiveness of Korean products.

- The following presenter argued that the world has witnessed the end of the liberal world order established in the aftermaths of World War II. Populism and fascism have appeared as alternatives to globalization, and Trump's unilateral protectionism is threatening multilateralism as well. This is because the public sector has failed to control the profit seeking behavior of the private sector. The market economy is still important, but measures should be taken to reign in financial speculation. If the US were to withdraw from global economic governance, the EU and Korea should consider its roles in responding to such a scenario.

- The final presentation evaluated the EU-Korea FTA, which has entered its 6th year. Both parties continue to identify barriers to trade, making adjustments to the treaty and respecting international trade norms. In regards to the global economic governance, Europeans should consider whether it is possible to counter American unilateralism while Europe depends on US military support.

Conclusion

- The participants agreed that The Global Value Chain between the EU and Korea should take the attention, and the trade deficit should not pose a major problem. Regarding global economic governance, it was discussed there should be a return to restrained liberalism and market principles. It was suggested that the void in the global trade order caused by US nationalism may be filled by China and the EU. While American withdrawal does not necessarily mean the end of the liberal order, KOR-EU FTA should provide a role model for the KOR-US FTA.

3. Science/Technology Session

During the science and technology session, the participants mainly discussed the various areas and methods for increasing research cooperation between the EU and Korea, as well as policy coordination and sharing best practices.

- The 1st presentation highlighted the capability for science and technology to resolve social issues and increase individual welfare. However, there is a lack of exchange between Europe and Korea due to geographic distances, cultural differences, information gaps, and the absence of human interchanges. Therefore, both parties should increase human exchanges, as well as cooperation in areas such as technologies for shutting down nuclear reactors, renewable energy, and cyberspace research. The EU and Korea should continue to cooperate in various areas including the 4th industrial revolution.

- The 2nd presentation noted that Korea and the EU face common challenges such as climate change, air pollution, and energy security. Cooperation is ongoing in important areas such as chemical regulations and

emission trading systems, where Korea has adopted legislation similar to the EU. Further cooperation in environmental policies, including in non-governmental sectors, is expected.

Conclusion

- This session found that Europe displays strength in research that promotes human welfare, such as renewable energy, sustainable development and shutting down nuclear reactors. The EU tends to focus on long-term research whereas the US focuses on quick commercial research. It was concluded that Korea can serve as a gateway for Europe to cooperate with China and Japan, and that both parties have much to gain from mutual exchanges.