(Press Release: Provisional Translation)

November 24, 2026
Ministry of Defense Japan

Attendance by State Minister of Defense Odawara at the Third Schuman Security and Defence Forum and Meetings with Foreign Counterparts (Overview)

From November 17 to 18, 2026, State Minister of Defense Odawara visited Belgium to attend the Third Schuman Security and Defence Forum and held meetings and courtesy calls with representatives of various countries and organizations. An overview is provided below.

1. Third Schuman Security and Defence Forum

(1) The third Schuman Security and Defence Forum was held from November 17 to 18, with the participation of dozens of representatives from EU Member States, partner countries, and other participants. Against the backdrop of an increasingly complex security environment, participants held wide-ranging discussions on global security and defense issues.

(2) At the plenary session held on November 18, State Minister Odawara participated as a panelist in a discussion under the theme "Security in a Changing World: Trusted Partnerships for a Safer Future."

State Minister Odawara discussed how the international community should address challenges that transcend regional boundaries amid a rapidly changing international landscape. Noting the inseparability of Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific security, he stressed the need for like-minded countries to work together in addressing these challenges.

2. Meetings and Courtesy Calls with Foreign Representatives

On Tuesday, November 17, prior to the Schuman Forum, State Minister Odawara visited NATO Headquarters, where he exchanged views with Mr. Catsaras, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning.

On Wednesday, November 18, on the margins of the Schuman Forum, State Minister Odawara held a meeting with Ms. Ollongren, Secretary-General of the EU; paid a courtesy call on Mr. Sandvik, Norwegian Minister of Defence; and held a meeting with General Clancy, Chair of the EU Military Committee.

On the same day, State Minister Odawara also visited the Belgian Ministry of Defence,