



Joint Minutes of the First Meeting of the Committee on Trade in Services, Investment Liberalisation and Electronic Commerce under the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership

Brussels, 13 November 2019

The first meeting of the Committee on Trade in Services, Investment Liberalisation and Electronic Commerce under the Agreement between the European Union (“EU”) and Japan for an Economic Partnership (“EPA”) took place on 13 November 2019 in Brussels.

EU participants from the Directorates-General TRADE, GROW, HOME, JUST and FISMA and the EU Delegation to Japan and Japanese participants from MOFA, METI, FSA and the Mission of Japan to the EU had a fruitful exchange of views on matters related to Chapter 8 of the EPA (Trade in Services, Investment Liberalisation and Electronic Commerce).

The meeting agenda was adopted.

The Committee confirmed that it will work in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Joint Committee adopted on 10 April 2019, which will apply *mutatis mutandis*.

The Parties updated each other on their respective existing and future websites providing information on the EPA, both in general terms and in the specific area of services, investment and e-commerce. The Parties recognised the importance of awareness-raising initiatives and the availability of practical and user-friendly online information tools to explain and promote the benefits of the EPA.

Regarding the updates on the investment climate, the Parties exchanged information on the latest developments of their respective investment screening regimes. Reaffirming their commitment to preserve and improve the quality of the investment climate, the Parties expressed openness to continue their exchange of information in this regard.

The Parties also provided an update on the implementation of the EPA provisions dealing with postal and courier services such as the article on border procedures, *inter alia* based on information provided by interested stakeholders.

The Parties also discussed the implementation of the EPA provisions on entry and temporary stay of natural persons for business purposes, notably the obligation to grant the entry and temporary stay to intra-corporate transferees and their family members within their respectively stipulated period of time under Annex 8-C of the EPA, *inter alia* based on information provided by interested stakeholders.

The Parties further discussed electronic commerce, notably their cooperation and active participation in multilateral fora on this topic, such as the ongoing WTO negotiations on electronic commerce. The Parties also exchanged information on trade agreements with third countries.

Finally, in line with Article 8.81 of the EPA, the Parties discussed their reassessment of the need for including provisions on the free flow of data into the EPA. The Parties committed to explore the relevant internal procedures.
