



Joint Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Committee on Trade in Goods under the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership

Brussels, 14 November 2019

The first meeting of the Committee on Trade in Goods under the Agreement between the European Union (“EU”) and Japan for an Economic Partnership (“EPA”) took place on 14 November 2019 in Brussels.

EU participants from the Directorates-General TRADE, AGRI and GROW, and from the EU Delegation to Japan and Japanese participants from MOFA, MAFF, METI, MOF and the Mission of Japan to the EU had a fruitful exchange of views on matters related to Chapter 2 of the EPA (Trade in Goods).

The enclosed meeting agenda was adopted (cf. annex).

The committee confirmed that it would work in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Joint Committee, which would apply *mutatis mutandis*.

The committee exchanged information and views on the evolution of bilateral trade in goods over the initial months of application of the EPA.

The committee exchanged views on the importance of supporting utilisation of tariff preferences by economic operators. The committee welcomed ongoing efforts by the Customs authorities of both sides to implement confirmed actions to facilitate Rules of Origin procedures. Both sides undertook to:

- promote awareness-raising activities
- liaise through their respective SME contact points as regards ways to enhance the information that they make available to SMEs through their websites.

The committee confirmed the timeframe for the annual exchange of statistics under Article 2.32 of the EPA. The first exchange of statistics will take place in April 2020.

For the first year (February 2019 – December 2019), the exchanged statistics will consist of monthly data. The EU and Japan will finalise discussions on the content of the statistical exchange through technical contacts between DG TRADE and Japan's MOF.

Furthermore, the committee foresees to have an intermediary exchange of statistics in January 2020, covering the period February-September or February-October 2019 depending on data availability.

The EU side confirmed that since July 2013 it has not granted any export subsidies for agricultural commodities and that the amounts paid out in later budget years related to certificates issued prior to that date. Furthermore, the EU side recalled its statement at the WTO Committee on Agriculture on 30 October 2019 indicating that the EU had no intention to make use of footnote 4 of the Nairobi Ministerial decision on export subsidies. Finally, it was mentioned that the CAP-reform proposal for post 2020 envisages the elimination of the possibility to grant export refunds within the EU.

Japan explained the state of play in the allocation of Tariff-Rate-Quota ("TRQ") licences, and its expectation that the revised quota management methodology introduced in June 2019 would support effective use of the TRQs. The EU and Japan will continue exchanging information between competent authorities in order to keep monitoring the use of TRQs. Based on the EU's request, Japan will provide a correspondence table between the EPA tariff lines and the tariff lines currently in force. Based on Japan's request, the EU will endeavour to share its experience on TRQ management under its trade agreements with third countries.

Both sides exchanged questions and views on their recently negotiated trade agreements, based on Article 2.8.4 of the EPA on the potential market impact of concessions granted to third countries. Further technical exchanges may take place in the coming months, as necessary.

The Committee took note of the work of the Wine Working Group so far. The EU and Japan exchanged information on the advancement of their respective procedures on the authorisation of oenological practices.

The Committee took note of the work of the Working Group on Motor Vehicles and Parts and its outcome.
