



Japan-EU EPA
Joint Minutes of the First meeting of the Committee on Government Procurement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership

Tokyo, 27th November 2019

The first meeting of the Committee on Government Procurement under the Agreement between the European Union (“EU”) and Japan for an Economic Partnership (“EPA”) took place on 27th November 2019 in Tokyo.

Japanese participants from MOFA, METI and MLIT and EU participants from the Directorates-General TRADE and GROW, and from the EU Delegation to Japan had a fruitful exchange of views on matters related to Chapter 10 of the EPA (Government Procurement).

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

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

The Committee reconfirmed its joint commitment to implement the Chapter and to cooperate in effectively implementing the provisions of the Chapter on Government Procurement.

Japan and the EU exchanged overviews of the measures taken for the implementation of the Chapter on Government Procurement by each Party. Japan explained the amendment of Cabinet Orders on procurement by central- and sub-central government entities and its other measures. Japan is to inform the EU on references of the relevant legislative amendments¹.

Japan explained that the website of JETRO was the single point of access by electronic means. The EU is to look into the information available on the JETRO website. The EU elaborated on the TED system as their single point of access. The EU offered further discussion on how to facilitate the provision of information through a single point of access.

Japan introduced its available statistics regarding the number of open tendering

¹ Japan provided references of legislative amendments on 12 December 2019.

observed after the entry into force of the EPA on additional coverage under the agreement.

The EU reported the positive outcome of the EU-Japan railway Industrial dialogue held on November 25, 2019. Japan echoed the EU's positive assessment of the dialogue, while reiterating the importance for more EU railway operators to participate in the dialogue, in order to maximise the business opportunity for potential collaboration between Japanese and EU suppliers and operators. The EU confirmed to continue to make best effort to encourage enhanced participation by EU railway operators in future dialogues.

Japan described the preparations underway to implement the opening of railway procurement related to operational safety on transportation, which will come into effect in February 2020. The EU emphasised the anticipation expressed by EU suppliers regarding this new market opportunity. Both sides are to follow their market opening commitments in the railway sector.

Japan described measures taken to implement the additional obligations regarding procurement by sub-central entities including on core cities. The EU appreciated Japan's explanation and offered to continue to discuss ways to further foster respective market access for economic operators of both sides.

Japan and the EU exchanged information on their respective activities aimed at raising awareness of the EPA and the Government Procurement Chapter. The EU mentioned a possibility of working on creating guidance for their suppliers to facilitate understanding of procurement markets, and Japan noted its openness to collaborating on statistics with the EU in a feasible way.

Both parties shared the respective developments in the area of government procurement including in the area of e-procurement. The EU offered to share its experiences and practices on this area.

The EU also presented the recent Commission Guidance on the participation of third-country bidders and goods in the EU procurement market.

Both parties confirmed that they would work to hold the next Committee meeting in 2020 in Brussels.

Both parties confirmed that the outcome of the Committee meeting will be reported to the next EPA Joint Committee, and concluded their discussions.
