



## **Summary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Dialogue with Civil Society under Chapter 16 (Trade and Sustainable Development) of the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership**

**Tokyo, 31 January 2020**

The first Joint Dialogue with Civil Society under Chapter 16 (Trade and Sustainable Development, “TSD”) of the Agreement between the European Union (“EU”) and Japan for an Economic Partnership (“Agreement”) took place on 31 January 2020 in Tokyo.

The participants from the Japanese government and the European Commission had a fruitful dialogue with civil society organisations of Japan and the EU, with a Japanese government official as a moderator. The list of participants from the civil society organisations and the agenda are attached as annexes.

At the beginning, the moderator made opening remarks that the following day would mark the first anniversary of the entry into force of the Agreement which had contributed to further strengthening the relationship between Japan and the EU, and this dialogue would open a new horizon for Japan-EU cooperation.

The Japanese co-chair of the TSD Committee provided the following summary report of the first meeting held on 29-30 January.

- Both sides exchanged information on the implementation of the TSD Chapter.
- Both sides confirmed the importance of promoting corporate social responsibility (CSR) and responsible corporate behavior (RCB) as cross-cutting matters.
- Both sides presented the latest developments of their respective environment and climate policies.

- Both sides confirmed cooperation on the issues regarding circular economy and on the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision” which aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050, shared in the G20 Osaka Summit.
- Both sides presented and exchanged views on their recent labour policies and developments. Both sides further confirmed that they would continue to work regarding ratification of unratified ILO conventions.

The EU co-chair of the TSD Committee also confirmed that the Agreement was functioning well and collaboration among Japan, the EU and both civil societies would make a significant contribution to its implementation.

### Cross-cutting matters

The EU’s civil society introduced the EU’s strategies on Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) and the Japanese civil society introduced its activities regarding “Society5.0”. In response to questions from the EU side, Japanese participants described the core ideas and principles of “Society 5.0”. Some participants from both sides emphasised that disclosure of information regarding CSR to consumers was not sufficient yet.

### Trade and environment

The EU’s civil society presented its views on the mutual impacts of trade policy and climate change, including possible areas of work for TSD implementation such as considering all Chapters of the Agreement under the angle of sustainability. The EU’s civil society also introduced the EU’s circular economy policies related to trade, such as the initiatives on environmental footprint and measures to enhance traceability of products and materials. The Japanese civil society introduced its industry-wide action plan and efforts for establishing a sound material-cycle society and contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Japanese side expressed its concern over the EU’s carbon border adjustment mechanism. In response, the EU side explained that the mechanism should be consistent with WTO rules and would be examined with a help of an impact assessment. The Japanese co-chair of the TSD Committee also explained that Japan had requested to be duly informed of any relevant developments.

## Trade and labour

Japanese civil society presented on Japan's situation on ratification and implementation of ILO conventions and the Convention on Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work. The EU civil society responded that the latter convention was also among its priorities. The Japanese side also explained about its situation of women's labour participation, mentioning the Act on the Promotion of Women's Participation, to which the EU side expressed interest. A Japanese government official, in answering to the question from the EU civil society, described Japan's work regarding ratification of the ILO fundamental conventions.



## **EU – JAPAN ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (EPA)**

### **TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT JOINT DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY**

**31 JANUARY 2020, TOKYO**

VENUE: EU MISSION IN TOKYO

### **AGENDA**

- 1. INTRODUCTION BY THE MODERATOR**
- 2. INTRODUCTION BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN**
- 3. INTRODUCTION BY THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE CIVIL SOCIETIES**
- 4. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**
  - **CROSS-CUTTING ASPECTS OF TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**
  - **TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING TRADE AND CLIMATE ACTION**
  - **TRADE AND LABOUR**
- 5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

# **EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement**

## **1st meeting of the Joint Dialogue with Civil Society**

### **List of Participants**

**31/01/2020**

## **Civil Society**

### **EUROPEAN UNION**

Ms Eve Päärendson, EESC, Estonian Employers' Confederation (DAG)  
Mr Gustavo Gonzalez-Quijano, COTANCE/Euroleather (DAG)  
Mr Pascal Kerneis, European Services Forum (DAG)  
Ms Laure Batut, EESC, General Confederation of Labour - Workers' Power (DAG)  
Ms Tanja Buzek, European Transport Worker's Federation (DAG)  
Ms Stéphanie Ghislain, Eurogroup for Animals (DAG)  
Mr Krzysztof Pater, EESC, Polish Scouting and Guiding Association (DAG)  
Ms Adeline Favrel, France Nature Environnement (DAG)  
Ms Erika Koller, EESC, Forum for the Co-operation of Trade Unions  
Mr Michael McLoughlin, EESC, Youth Work Ireland  
Mr Peter Clever, EESC, Association of German Employers' Confederations – BDA

### **JAPAN**

Ms KONISHI Masako, Member of Central Environment Council (DAG)  
Ms INOUE Kumie, Member of Labour Policy Council (DAG)  
Ms SAITO Hisako, Member of Labour Policy Council (DAG)  
Ms FURUYA Yukiko, Consumer Conference for Sustainability / CSO (Civil Society Organisations) Network Japan  
Ms HOSHINO Tomoko, Environmental Partnership Council / Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs  
Mr KOJIMA Satoshi, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies  
Mr MORITA Kiyotaka, Japan Business Federation (KEIDANREN), International Affairs Bureau  
Mr MOTOBAYASHI Toshihiro, Federation of Information and Communication Technology Service Workers of Japan (ICTJ)  
Mr NODA Koji, Japan Chemical Industry Association, Technical Affairs Department  
Mr OHMI Naoto, Japanese Trade Union Confederation (JTUC-RENGO)  
Mr YAMAGISHI Naoyuki, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Japan  
Mr YAMAMOTO Daisuke, Japan Foreign Trade Council, Inc., Third Policy Proposal Group