



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

February 12, 2021 (Online)

The second meeting of the Committee on Trade in Services, Investment Liberalisation and Electronic Commerce (“the Committee”) under the Agreement between Japan and the European Union (“EU”) for an Economic Partnership (“EPA”) took place on February 12, 2021 online.

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

The meeting agenda was adopted.

Following the Second Meeting of the Japan - EU EPA Joint Committee held on February 1, 2021, the Parties started exploratory talks to better understand respective positions regarding the need for inclusion of provisions on the free flow of data into the EPA in line with Article 8.81.

The Parties exchanged information on recent developments concerning trade and investment agreements with third countries, such as the EU - China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement.

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 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 in some EU Member States.

The Parties further discussed 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 in Japan.

Finally, the Parties exchanged views on offshore wind power, notably the services related aspects. The EU underlined the importance to continue discussions on the services related aspects of this sector in the framework of the Committee. Japan recognized the effectiveness of further discussions among experts in this field at relevant fora, including the Japan-EU Energy Dialogue. The Parties would take stock of the progress made among experts as needed in the context of the next Committee meeting.
