



Joint Minutes of the Third Meeting of the Committee on Regulatory Cooperation under the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership

Video Conference, 13 December 2021

The third meeting of the Committee on Regulatory Cooperation under the Agreement between the European Union (“EU”) and Japan for an Economic Partnership took place on 13 December 2021 via a video conference.

On the EU side, the Directorates-General TRADE, ENER, GROW, SANTE and the EU Delegation to Japan were represented. On Japan’s side, representatives from MOFA, METI, MAFF, MLIT, MHLW and the Mission of Japan to the EU participated in the meeting.

The meeting agenda was adopted (cf. attachment).

The two sides exchanged views as regards the engagement with stakeholders on regulatory cooperation issues. The EU requested Japan’s views on its suggestion to jointly meet and debrief interested stakeholders, in particular the EU-Japan Business Round Table (“BRT”). Japan acknowledged the importance of reflecting voices from businesses, including the BRT. Japan explained that it had already extensively communicated with the private sector including Japanese BRT participants through activities such as frequent consultations and annual progress reports. From this perspective, Japan confirmed that it would have a joint EU-Japan debriefing, if prompted and welcomed by the BRT. Concrete modalities and logistics of the joint debriefing will be clarified in follow-up exchanges between the two sides. Japan also suggested that the EU would compile a concise progress report on the BRT recommendations just as Japan is doing, to be shared with the EU and Japanese stakeholders.

The EU gave a presentation on block chain technologies and trade, in particular on the outcome of the project in respect to the identification of the areas most beneficial for international trade and the demonstration software developed to exemplify the benefits of a block chain solution for trade based on the use case: Tracking and tracing beef along the supply chain. Japan asked for the presentation’s slides and expressed interest in receiving the final report after it is published by DG TRADE. Japan further shared the intention to deploy block

chain solutions in the area of tracking and tracing semiconductors along the supply chain.

Both sides discussed certain issues concerning the deployment of offshore wind power in Japan. The EU reminded three main issues: tendering guidelines, standardisation and conformity assessment, and cabotage. The EU also suggested organising another expert workshop/seminar. Japan favourably considered the EU's suggestion provided the two sides reach a consensus on concrete modalities of the meeting, agenda and timing while taking into consideration the framework of EU-Japan Energy Dialogue and Green Alliance. The EU will provide further questions in writing on tendering guidelines, Japan's plans to revise its Offshore Wind Power standardization (and the possible use of EN standards in this process) and accreditation of conformity assessment bodies. There will be further cooperation on this basis between the EU Delegation and Japanese authorities. The EU suggested a meeting between METI, the EU Delegation and the interested EU conformity assessment bodies to increase mutual understanding of Japanese requirements and to address any barriers the conformity assessment bodies may be facing. Japan committed itself to reverting with replies in writing and to continuing expert discussions related to these issues. Japan also stated that it would reply in writing in order to clarify the rules related to cabotage. Japan will also provide clarification on if special licences are automatically granted to those applicants who meet the criteria of the Ship Act, regardless of their nationalities, even if Japanese vessels are available.

Under any other business agenda point, the two sides held a discussion on possible EU-Japan Animal Welfare cooperation based on a preliminary draft overview paper submitted by the EU ahead of the meeting and confirmed that they would have further discussion among experts.

At the EU request, Japan provided a general overview on economic security concept in Japan. At Japan's request, the EU provided in-depth information on the ongoing work to develop a legislative instrument to counteract economic coercion in international relations, FDI screening and Export Controls regulations.
