



## **Joint Minutes of the Third 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**

**March 16, 2022 (Online)**

The third meeting of the Committee on Trade in Services, Investment Liberalisation and Electronic Commerce under the Agreement between Japan and the European Union (EU) for an Economic Partnership (hereinafter referred to as “the EPA”) took place online on March 16, 2022.

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

The two sides first adopted the meeting agenda.

The two sides then went on to express their views on the review clause on the free flow of data in Article 8.81 of the EPA. Both sides acknowledged the importance of including provisions on data flow in the EPA, but also recognized that more technical discussions were still needed before starting negotiations on such provisions.

The two sides further discussed the implementation of the EPA regarding provisions on postal and courier services such as border procedures based on information provided by the stakeholders concerned. The Japanese side also provided an update on the privatization process of Japan Post Holdings.

Finally, under AOB, the EU side raised the issue of offshore wind power, notably the services-related aspects thereof. The EU side asked the Japanese side for information that would supplement the written answers to EU questions concerning cabotage restrictions, availability of vessels, and reflagging that the Japanese side had provided prior to the meeting. The two sides decided to continue addressing the relevant issues orally and/or in writing with a view to coming to a mutually acceptable conclusion.

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