



## **Joint Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Working Group on Wine under the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership**

*Brussels and Tokyo (by videoconference), 7 October 2022*

The fourth meeting of the Working Group on Wine under the Agreement between the European Union (EU) and Japan for an Economic Partnership (EPA) took place on 7 October 2022. The meeting was held by videoconference.

The meeting allowed a fruitful exchange of views on matters related to Chapter 2 - section C of the EPA (Facilitation of wine product export) between Japanese and EU participants. On the EU side, there were participants from the Directorates-General AGRI and TRADE, as well as from the EU Delegation to Japan. On the Japanese side, MOFA, MOF, and NTA were represented.

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

According to Article 2.35.2(b) of the EPA, the Working Group monitored the implementation of Article 2.27, confirming the progress made by Japan and the EU to authorise the oenological practices referred to in Section D of Part 1 and in Section D of Part 2 of Annex 2-E (so called “phase three”).

Japan informed that four additives for phase three, *Kaolin*, *Argon*, *Malolactic fermentation activators* and *Potassium caseinate* have been authorised. For the remaining five additives a risk assessment has been conducted by Food Safety Commission of Japan. Four of the remaining five additives, *Potassium ferrocyanide*, *Calcium tartrate*, *Copper sulphate* and *Calcium phytate*, are under a risk management process by MHLW, and *Potassium bicarbonate* is under examination process at NTA. The authorisation of all the remaining additives is expected to be completed by February 2024.

EU informed that it was working to complete its authorisation process of phase three by February 2024. The EU would be ready to start the final internal procedures for the authorisation of the Japanese substances, which will take about two months, as soon as Japan could reciprocate.

Both sides confirmed their ability to meet the timeline set by the EPA for the completion of this phase i.e. 02/2024

Finally, under the “Any Other Business” point of the agenda, the EU referred to the approval procedure in Japan for substances outside the EPA list such as *Potassium Polyaspartate*. It also requested Japan to adapt the English language list of additives and processing aids authorised for use in wine in Japan to reduce the burden of search for foreign operators and to clarify the scope of certain approved substances. For example, it might be useful to add a footnote such as the one for *lactic acid* “*Lactic Acid* may include Lactic acid bacteria” ([https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou\\_iryuu/shokuhin/syokuten/index\\_00012.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryuu/shokuhin/syokuten/index_00012.html)). Japan indicated that such footnotes cannot be systematically added and suggested

to the EU an alternative such that the EU can submit a list of questions on substances for wine making in cooperation with stakeholders or producers on the EU side if needed.

Both sides will coordinate the next meeting of the Working Group on Wine in 2023, to be hosted by Japan.

*Annex*



**4th Meeting of the Working Group on Wine under the Agreement  
between the European Union and Japan for an Economic  
Partnership**

**7 October 2022  
09:00-10:00 (Brussel time)  
16:00-17:00 (Tokyo time)**

Agenda

1. **Opening Session**
  - a. EU
  - b. Japan
2. **Adoption of the Agenda (Article 22.4.3(d))**
3. **Monitoring the implementation of Article 2.27 of the Agreement between the EU and Japan for an Economic Partnership (Article 2.35.2(b))**

**Article 2.27: State of play on the steps taken by the EU and by Japan to authorise the oenological practices referred to in Section D of Part 1 and in Section D of Part 2 of Annex 2-E (so called “phase three”).**

4. **Any Other Business (A.O.B.)**

**Approval procedure of substances outside the EPA list**

5. **Closing session (date and venue of the next meeting)**
  - a. EU
  - b. Japan