



Joint Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Committee on Government Procurement under the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership

Brussels and Tokyo (by video-conference), 13 December 2022

The fourth meeting of the Committee on Government Procurement under the Agreement between the European Union (EU) and Japan for an Economic Partnership (EPA) took place on 13 December 2022, by video-conference.

In this meeting, Japan and the EU exchanged views on topics relating to Chapter 10 of the EPA (e.g. single point of access and exchange of statistics). On Japan side, participants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) were represented; on the EU side, there were participants from the Directorate-General for Trade (TRADE) and the Delegation of the European Union to Japan.

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

Both Japan and the EU shared their experiences about each counterpart's respective single point of access for the publication of tender notices, an obligation under the EPA. While the EU reiterated the importance of a systemic long-term solution to ensure the timely publication of tenders covered by the EPA under a single point of access in Japan, Japan stated that its current system is also in compliance with its obligations under Chapter 10. Japan expressed some concerns with respect to translations of summary descriptions for a few individual tender notices from EU contracting authorities. The EU welcomed Japan's feedback and assured to look into the cases mentioned by Japan. Both sides confirmed that they would continue on further improving the proper publication of tender notices on a single access point.

The EU referred to the 'Access2Procurement' tool, which is linked on the website of the Japanese External Trade Organization (JETRO) where Japan publishes their tender notices covered by the EPA. The tool can provide support not only for EU suppliers but also for Japanese contracting authorities to assess whether a certain tender would be covered under GPA/EPA commitments. To increase the awareness and knowledge about the tool amongst Japanese contracting authorities, the EU offered to organise a webinar on its use by public procurement officials,

through concrete tender examples. Japan took a note of the EU's proposal. Further details would be clarified at a later stage.

The EU presented statistics on successful Japanese bids for EU tenders sourced from TED (Tenders Electronic Daily), the EU website where tenders by European contracting authorities are published. Both parties discussed the scope of obligations under Article 10.13– 'Collection and reporting of statistics'. Questions and clarifications regarding the respective approaches of data collection were shared. Both parties confirmed that it is crucial to make best efforts as to the collection of data and that technical discussions and exchanges of questions on statistics should be continued in the future.

Upon a request from Japan, the EU answered questions on the new International Procurement Instrument (IPI). The EU stressed its advocacy for open international public procurement markets and the main objective of the IPI: to provide the EU with leverage whenever there is a lack of reciprocity in third countries and to open their procurement markets for EU businesses. The EU confirmed that the IPI is not designed to target any specific third country.

Both sides confirmed that the proper implementation of obligations in the Chapter 10 is crucial to enhance trade.

Japan and the EU reconfirmed the importance of following up on discussions of the committee and concurred that in between the annual meetings one should maintain close contact.

Annex – Agenda



EU-Japan EPA

Fourth Meeting of the Committee on Government Procurement under the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership

13th December 2022 (Videoconference)

Draft Agenda

- 1. Opening Statements**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Single point of access (Art. 10.4 of the EPA)**
- 4. Use of the Access2Procurement tool**
- 5. Reporting of statistics about the access to the EU and the Japanese public procurement markets (Art. 10.13 of the EPA)**
- 6. Any Other Business – EU International Procurement Instrument**
- 7. Closing Remarks**
- (8. Joint minutes drafting session)**
