



Joint Minutes of the 5th 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), 28 November 2023

The fifth 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 28 November 2023. The meeting was held by videoconference.

The meeting allowed a fruitful exchange of views on the completion of authorization of oenological practices referred to in the Agreement. On the Japanese side, MOFA, MOF, NTA, and MHLW were represented. On the EU side, there were participants from the Directorates-General AGRI and TRADE, as well as from the EU Delegation to Japan.

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

According to Article 2.35.2(b) of the EPA, the Working Group confirmed and celebrated the completion of authorization of oenological practices referred to in Article 2.27, Section D of Part 1 and in Section D of Part 2 of Annex 2-E (so called “phase three”) as one of the very important achievements by the implementation of the EPA.

Under the “Any Other Business” of the agenda, both sides concurred that the Working Group on Wine will be used as a tool to address any issues or stringent needs related to oenological practices that arise from either side in the future. In addition, the Japanese side indicated that it had clarified the scope of certain approved substances requested by the EU side through footnotes on the list of food additives for making wine that can be found on the National Tax Agency website.

Finally, both sides confirmed to continue working together for the promotion of trade in wine.

Annex



**5th Meeting of the Working Group on Wine under the Agreement
between the European Union and Japan for an Economic
Partnership**

28 November 2023
09:30-10:00 (Brussel time)
17:30-18:00 (Tokyo time)

Agenda

1. **Opening Session**
 - a. Japan
 - b. EU
2. **Adoption of the Agenda (Article 22.4.3(d))**
3. **Progress review of the implementation of Article 2.27 of the Agreement between the EU and Japan for an Economic Partnership (Article 2.35.2(b))**
4. **Any Other Business (A.O.B.)**
5. **Closing session (date and venue of the next meeting)**
 - a. Japan
 - b. EU