



Joint Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Motor Vehicles and Parts under the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership

Brussels and Tokyo (by video-conference), 12 October 2023

The Fourth meeting of the Working Group on Motor Vehicles and Parts, under the Agreement between the European Union (“EU”) and Japan for an Economic Partnership (“EPA”), took place on 12 October 2023, by video-conference.

On the Japanese side, participants included representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and of Japan’s Mission to the EU. On the EU side, participants included representatives of DG TRADE, DG GROW, DG CNECT, DG CLIMA, and of the EU Delegation to Japan.

Japan and the EU exchanged information on developments in their respective automotive markets, stressing the negative impact of supply chain issues such as semiconductors' shortages. Both sides confirmed to exchange the market data presented by each other. The EU suggested to include statistics on car parts in the exchange.

Regarding Appendix 2-C-1, Japan explained that it would be possible to reflect UNR No 165-167, while it did not have a plan to apply UNR No 164, which is currently prohibited by Japanese domestic law. With regard to Appendix 2-C-2, Japan explained that it had not decided yet when to apply UNR No. 73 and No. 126, but would respect the deadline as set out in the EPA. Also, Japan and the EU shared the view to update Appendix 2-C-1 at the same time as updating Appendix 2-C-2 in order to streamline the amendment procedure. The EU asked Japan to inform it about the status of the study on the application of the UNR No. 73 and No. 126 at the next meeting. The EU informed Japan that it will transpose the requirements of UNR No. 164, 165 and 167, but not UNR 166 (not applicable for the EU’s type-approval framework).

On frequency management, Japan explained that it started the review of frequency band 433.92 MHz under the ad-hoc group set up under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication (MIC) and would continue to study the issue with stakeholders. The EU welcomed these concrete actions and asked Japan to provide, in written format, periodic updates on this issue, including, as soon as possible, the future timeline for progress foreseen by MIC for reviewing of frequency band 433.92 MHz for RKE/TPMS in cars imported into Japan.

Both sides welcomed the adoption of UNR No. 166 on close-proximity field of vision for vehicle moving off from standstill at the 188th WP.29 in 2022, underlining that this was a good example of the cooperation between Japan and the EU. The EU welcomed the fact that Japan transposed UNR No. 166 into domestic law. Both sides confirmed that they would keep exchanging information and would remove this item from the agenda of next meeting.

Japan expressed concerns about the EU's Fit for 55 Regulation on CO2 emissions for new cars and vans. Firstly, Japan requested the EU to provide explanations on the appropriateness of the minimum standard value of greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Secondly, Japan asked how the EU assesses the progress made towards achieving the 100% emission reduction targets and to review these targets considering technological developments, including plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) technologies. The EU responded that a progress report is to be submitted by 31 December 2025 and then every two years thereafter in line with the amended Regulation, while the review of the effectiveness and impact of the Regulation will be completed by 2026. Those reports and the review will also consider technological developments, including for PHEVs. Preparatory work for all of this is starting in 2024.

Japan also enquired about the future schedule on the Implementing Regulation for type approval of vehicles running exclusively on carbon-neutral fuels. The EU replied that the draft EU Implementing Regulation was under preparation (on-going internal technical discussions), that it had been notified to the WTO TBT Committee and that comments from WTO members would be welcome. The EU further clarified that the timeline for adoption could not be identified yet since the measure was still under discussion among Member States.
