



## **Joint Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Committee on Trade in Goods under the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership**

**Brussels and Tokyo (by videoconference), 11 March 2025**

The sixth meeting of the Committee on Trade in Goods under the Agreement between the European Union (“EU”) and Japan for an Economic Partnership (“EPA”) took place on 11 March 2025 by videoconference.

From the Japanese side, participants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Ministry of Finance (MOF), the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) and the Mission of Japan to the EU were present, whereas from the EU side participants from the Directorate-General for Trade (DG TRADE), Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) and the EU Delegation to Japan were present. The attached agenda was adopted.

Both sides acknowledged the positive trend in the bilateral trade in goods since the entry into force of the EPA and confirmed their mutually important trade partnership. Furthermore, both Japan and the EU welcomed the upward trend of Preference Utilisation Rate (PUR) in both directions, which demonstrates the increasing benefit of the EPA. In addition, both sides confirmed the timeframe for the annual exchange of the trade statistics under Article 2.32 of the EPA at around late June 2025, in the same way as the last year.

Both sides exchanged views on the utilisation of Tariff-Rate Quotas (TRQs) in fiscal year 2023 (latest information available). For TRQ n° 23 (Butter, skimmed milk powder, milk powder, butter milk powder and condensed milk), Japan reported an increase when compared to the previous year. Japan explained the change in the operation of this TRQ in 2025. Upon request from the EU, the Japanese side concurred in sharing TRQ figures for fiscal year 2024, when available. Both sides will continue monitoring the situation.

Regarding the activities of the Working Group on Motor Vehicles and Parts, the Japanese side explained that the dates for applying UN Regulations (UNR) No.73 (lateral protection devices) and No.126 (partitioning systems) were not

determined yet and requested the EU side for its cooperation at the UNECE World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29). Both sides shared the view that they would confirm the dates for applying UNR No.73 and No.126 by 1 February 2026 and then, include the dates in Appendix 2-C-2 as early as possible. Both sides also confirmed that Appendix 2-C-1 would be updated at the same time as the amendment of Appendix 2-C-2, in line with paragraph 3 and subparagraph 4(b) of Article 23.2 of the EPA.

The EU referred to the on-going ex-post evaluation of the EU-Japan EPA, after five years of application, and would appreciate it if Japan could collaborate with the external contractor. Japan kindly accepted to cooperate as far as possible with the EU on this evaluation.

\*\*\*



**6th Meeting of the Committee on Trade in Goods under the Agreement between the  
European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership**

**11 March 2025  
9:00-10:30 Brussels, 17:00-18:30 Tokyo  
(Video Conference)**

**Agenda**

**1. Opening session**

- Japan
- EU

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

**3. Trends in bilateral trade in goods**

- Japan presentation
- EU presentation
- Exchange of views

**4. Utilisation of the EPA**

- a. Discussion and assessment of the EPA utilisation rate
- b. Organisation of the next annual exchange of trade statistics

**5. Implementation of Chapter 2 and Annex 2-A**

- a. Use of tariff rate quotas
- b. Activities of the Working Groups under the auspices of the Trade Committee (Article 22.4)

**6. AOB**

**Ex-post evaluation of the EPA**

**7. Closing session**

- EU
- Japan