



Joint Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the Committee on Regulatory Cooperation under the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership

14 March 2025 (videoconference)

The sixth meeting of the Committee on Regulatory Cooperation under the Agreement between the European Union (“EU”) and Japan for an Economic Partnership (“EPA”) took place on 14 March 2025 via videoconference.

The Japanese side hosted the meeting. Their delegation consisted of participants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy (ANRE), and the Cabinet Office. The EU side was represented by their Directorates-General for Trade, Environment, and Taxation and Customs, and the EU Delegation to Japan. The attached agenda was adopted.

The EU side presented the “Omnibus” package on the simplification of regulations published on 26th February 2025, outlining in particular the proposed revisions to the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive and Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. The Japanese side took positive note of the simplification efforts and invited the EU to continue its work, reiterating concerns about the potential impact on the bilateral trade and economic relations linked to the administrative burden resulting from EU regulations. The Japanese side also invited the EU to clarify the unclear provisions and to swiftly adopt related tools and guidance. The EU side assured the Japanese side that simplification remained a priority.

The EU side explained the main actions set out in the Clean Industrial Deal (CID) published on 26th February 2025. The Japanese side reiterated that the rapid changes in regulatory environment could have a negative impact on bilateral trade and economic relations even if the purpose of the regulations based on the CID is justifiable, such as achieving climate neutrality and transition to a circular economy. The Japanese side also raised concerns on whether the measures set out in the CID would be taken in compliance with the international rules including the WTO agreements and EPA. As examples, they referred to the use of ex officio investigations under the Foreign Subsidies Regulation, the introduction of European preference criteria through the revision of the Public Procurement

Framework, and the use of Trade Defence Instruments. The EU side responded that the proposals would be in line with their international legal commitments. The EU side suggested to the Japanese side to participate in the public consultation on the Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act and the Circular Economy Act.

Regarding the Ecodesign Regulation, the Japanese side requested the EU side to make the requirements economically reasonable. They referred to the recycled content and expressed their willingness to collaborate in setting information and data stored in Digital Product Passports (DPP). The EU side responded that it would consider Japan's comments on ecodesign requirements through its consultation process and explained that requirements in recycled content and DPP would be phased in. Both sides shared the view that they are like-minded partners to promote circular economy and concurred to discuss the matter in order to harmonise their rules and standards in various channels including their respective stakeholder fora (Ecodesign Forum and Circular Partners).

Both sides discussed matters concerning offshore wind power (OWP) in Japan: tendering, access of foreign vessels and floating offshore wind.

Firstly, the EU side raised the need to revise the tendering rules, including to instil more post-contractual flexibility, given the global inflation and tight supply chain. The Japanese side explained that it would introduce a new system that adjusts bidding prices in line with the fluctuations in prices. The EU welcomed that changes are intended but considered their scope and impact too narrow. Both sides concurred to hold follow-up meetings at working level with ANRE for more in-depth discussion.

Secondly, the EU side mentioned the public consultation initiated by MLIT on the amendments of the ministerial ordinance to clarify the application procedure for special permission to foreign flagged vessels stipulated in the Ship Laws and underlined the critical shortage of specialized vessels with sufficient capacity for OWP projects. Therefore, a viable solution, entailing clear and transparent implementation rules, is necessary. The Japanese side replied that the public consultation on the amendments had been initiated and expressed their readiness to continue exchanging views at working level.

Thirdly, the Japanese side outlined the progress in the bill to deploy OWP projects in Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone and shared the good example of R&D cooperation on floating offshore wind between Japan and the EU. The EU side suggested to explore further collaboration between both sides.

With regard to the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), the Japanese side highlighted the importance of compliance with WTO rules. They

reiterated their concerns about the calculation of embedded emissions, CBAM certificates to be submitted, and their verification. The EU side replied to these concerns and presented the amendments to CBAM proposed in the Omnibus package, and presented the planning for the implementation of CBAM before the start of the post-transitional period in 2026. The EU side explained that it was currently assessing the simplification of emissions calculation and the rules for accreditation and verification, studying the carbon price paid in third countries, and comparing the accreditation bodies in third countries and the EU. Both sides confirmed to continue discussion on this matter.

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**Sixth Meeting of the Committee on Regulatory Cooperation
under the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an
Economic Partnership**

14 March 2025 (videoconference)

8:30 – 9:55 am (Brussels) / 4:30 – 5:55 pm (Tokyo)

Agenda

- 1. Opening remarks**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Simplification of Regulations**
- 4. Clean Industrial Deal**
- 5. Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation**
- 6. Regulatory issues of interest - Offshore Wind Power**
 - a. Tendering**
 - b. Access of foreign vessels**
 - c. Floating Offshore Wind**
- 7. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)**
- 8. Closing remarks**