



**Joint Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of
the Committee on Intellectual Property under the Agreement
between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership**

Online, 14 January 2026

Details will be announced as soon as possible.

**REPORT OF THE EU-JAPAN COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TO
THE EU-JAPAN JOINT COMMITTEE**

of 14 January 2026

on paragraph 5 of Article 14.25 of the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership

THE COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY,

Having regard to the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership (the "Agreement"), and in particular Articles 14.25 and 14.53 thereof,

Taking note of:

- (1) The Agreement entered into force on 1 February 2019;
- (2) Pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 14.25 of the Agreement, each Party shall, in respect of geographical indications of the other Party listed in Annex 14-B, provide the legal means for interested parties to prevent the use of a geographical indication identifying a good for a like good not meeting the applicable requirement of specifications of the geographical indication in its territory;
- (3) Paragraph 5 of Article 14.25 of the Agreement foresees the possibility that, for a period of seven years from the date of entry into force of this Agreement, the protection provided for under this Sub-Section for a particular geographical indication of the European Union as listed in Annex 14-B shall not preclude, with regard to the good identified with such geographical indication, the possibility that operations comprised of grating, slicing and packaging, including cutting into portions and inner packaging, could be carried out within the territory of Japan, provided that such good is destined for the Japanese market and not for the purpose of re-exportation;
- (4) Pursuant to paragraph 6 of Article 14.25 of the Agreement, the Parties shall review the implementation of the provisions of paragraph 5 no later than three years after the date of entry into force of this Agreement with a view to reaching a mutually acceptable solution before the end of the seven-year period referred to in that paragraph;
- (5) Pursuant to subparagraph 2(d) of Article 14.53 of the Agreement, the Committee on Intellectual Property is tasked to report its findings and the outcomes of its discussions to the Joint Committee;

And discussing:

- (6) With regard to the geographical indications "Parmigiano Reggiano" and "Grana Padano" listed in Annex 14-B to the Agreement, both sides consider that for a period of three years following the expiry of the seven-year period specified in paragraph 5 of Article 14.25, the protection provided for under Sub-Section 3 for this geographical indication should not preclude the possibility that operations comprised of grating, slicing and packaging, including cutting into portions and inner packaging, could be carried out within the territory of Japan, provided that such good is destined for the Japanese market and not for the purposes of re-exportation;
- (7) To this end, the EU side requested the Japanese side not to enforce, for three years after the expiry of the seven-year period above, regulations on the above-mentioned two GIs, to the extent that the operations referred to in subparagraph (6) are carried out within the territory of Japan, and the Japanese side accepted that;
- (8) Both sides will continue their discussions to formalise the mutually acceptable solution indicated in paragraphs (6) and (7);

(9) Both sides will work towards a Joint Committee decision to this end;

REPORTS OUTCOMES OF DISCUSSIONS AS THE ABOVE (6) TO (9) TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE.

For the Committee on Intellectual Property,

Co-Chair [for Japan]

山崎 利直

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Director of Intellectual Property Affairs Division
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