



The EU-Japan FTA/EPA and Regulatory Cooperation

Where we stand, what we want, and the role of business

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EU-Japan FTA/EPA – where do we stand?

- Negotiations have been going on for 3 years and last week the 16th round took place in Tokyo.
- Although the negotiations have moved forward, they have progressed much slower than expected.
- A conclusion of the negotiations in 2015 did not materialise due to a number of factors.



EU-Japan FTA/EPA – why a slowing down?

- **TPP** – unfortunately has had an impact on the EU-Japan FTA, slowing down negotiations in key areas. TPP still needs to be ratified in Japan.
- **Substance over speed** – TPP is not a benchmark. The EU-Japan FTA/EPA should be an ambitious agreement that unlocks new potential for growth in both markets. We are pleased to hear that negotiators are taking on board our calls for a comprehensive agreement.



EU-Japan FTA /EPA– what do we want?

- We expect **ambitious results** in terms of market access, procurement, the removal of non-tariff measures (NTMs), geographic indications, services and investment.
- In order to avoid new barriers from emerging, it should be a **‘living agreement’** and include a mechanism to facilitate regulatory cooperation between both parties.
- This agreement is a **once in a lifetime opportunity** to promote sustainable growth and improve the living conditions of our citizens.



EU-Japan FTA/EPA – the role of business

- Business should urge both sides to make substantial efforts to **speed up the negotiations**. Both sides are familiar with each other's positions and difficult decisions now have to be made on both sides.
- Since the political environment in 2017 will be more difficult, the **negotiators should aim to conclude the agreement in 2016**. But there must not be a speedy conclusion at the expense of substance. European and Japanese business should support the authorities to make this possible.



Thank you!