

EU-Japan: potential Economic Integration Agreement has to improve market access in real terms

Ahead of the EU-Japan Summit on 28 May, EUROCHAMBRES calls upon European and Japanese policy makers to pave the way for an ambitious Economic Integration Agreement in which all kinds of barriers to trade and investment – tariff and non-tariff – are tackled in a way that makes a visible and effective improvement of market access for EU companies in Japan.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *“Seeing that the Japanese have already come up with a proposal on how to tackle the first three of the listed non-tariff barriers affecting European companies, is an encouraging signal that they are willing to address the remaining non-tariff barriers.”*

EUROCHAMBRES insists that the actual conclusion of a trade agreement must be conditional to a comprehensive dismantling of non-tariff barriers in Japan, better access to the government procurement market for EU companies and the inclusion of a balanced chapter on investment. The recently-announced ‘scoping exercise’ can be a good means to ensure such a balanced basis for negotiations.

The achievement of such a deal would draw the attention of European businesses back to Japan – a market with high potential but considered to be a difficult one because of cultural, technical and tariff barriers.

Against this background, EUROCHAMBRES also supported a joint statement of EU and Japanese business organisations made public for the Foreign Affairs / Trade Council meeting of 13 May, which refers to the conditionality expressed by the European Council and to the Japanese willingness to address tariff- and non tariff barriers alike.

The full EUROCHAMBRES Position on the EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement can be downloaded from www.eurochambres.eu/Content/Default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=3387

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