

[Art. 4.1(b)] (TRADE)

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**Subject:** Report: FTA working group BusinessEurope

**Report Meeting FTA working group BusinessEurope 20 June 2014. 09:30-12:30**

**Participants COM:** [Art. 4.1(b)]

*Summary: 3-hour well attended meeting with updates and Q&A on: TTIP negotiations, Canada-CETA, FTAs negotiations with ASEAN countries (especially Thailand and Vietnam), FTA negotiations with Japan and FTA implementation of South-Korea.*

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#### 4. JAPAN

**COM** informed about the review process of the first year of the negotiations with Japan. Overall, there is an agreement that the negotiations should continue. MS have raised certain concerns on railway procurement. However, this deal will create an unprecedented situation in Japan. COM aims to achieve an ambitious agreement and conclude the negotiations next year before the upcoming elections in 2015 in Japan.

**UNIFE** stated that the operational safety clause of railway procurement was controversial and asked whether this could be taken up during the next rounds of negotiations. **COM** clarified that discussions on government procurement and market access will continue in the second phase of the negotiations, which will start after the one year review is over. Already now Japan has committed to transparency with regard to the operational safety clause. **CLEPA** enquired about the status of the draft NTB annex on automotive. **COM** informed that the car annex was presented to Japan during the last round and will be discussed during the next round. **BusinessEurope** asked whether the focus of the next phase of the negotiations will be on NTBs or other aspects. **COM** stressed that negotiations on NTBs will continue. **COM** invited industry to provide substantial background information on new NTBs before mid-July, after which it will decide which NTBs to include in the list that will be submitted to Japan. **CEFIC** informed that it submitted a list of barriers on chemicals and stated that the main problem remains non-acceptance of international standards by Japan. **COM** acknowledged the need for solutions of barriers related to the chemicals industry. **MEDEF** asked for details on the mechanisms for reviewing NTBs which have not been identified during the Roadmap and whether there will be a new review process. **COM** informed that there will be no new revision clause on NTBs.

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