



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Competitiveness and European Semester
International Affairs

Meeting G. Cozigou with METI – Tokyo 26 October 2015

Future work on Regulatory Cooperation (for the next Industrial Policy Dialogue)

Scene setter:

The Japanese are eager to make progress on the "Regulatory Cooperation" file for two reasons :

- they want to ensure the implementation of the agreement signed in March in the margin of the industrial policy dialogue and,
- they are waiting for our draft text for the "Regulatory cooperation" chapter to be part of the FTA currently negotiated.

Line to take

- *Confirm the commitment of DG GROW to continue working on the regulatory cooperation dossier and to maintain a fruitful relationship with METI. The different working groups will meet before the next Industrial Policy Dialogue i.e. April 2016.*
- *Reassure METI that we are currently working on a draft text on "Regulatory Cooperation" to be part of the FTA. We are working jointly with DG Trade. The text will be ready before next round i.e. before December .*

Background

Industrial Policy Dialogue

The last Industrial Policy Dialogue took place on 17 March in Brussels, it was co-chaired by MM Ishiguro (Vice-Minister from METI) and D. Calleja;

On the occasion of the last Dialogue, a Joint Declaration was signed: "Regulatory Cooperation between Japan and the EU". The regulatory cooperation covers various areas i.e. Robotics, chemicals, automobile, conflict minerals, eco-design policies,

construction, resource efficiency, medical devices, IT and manufacturing industries and personal data protection.

Bilateral initiatives have already been initiated with different degrees of advancement in the following sectors: robotics, chemicals, automobile, eco-design policies and construction.

The next Dialogue should take place in April 2016, in Tokyo. It is foreseen to organise it at the same time as the annual meeting of the EU-Japan Business Round Table (where the participation of our DG is also requested). Our Commissioner indicated she might visit Japan in the course of 2016, her visit could take place at the same time as well which offers a larger perspective for the Industrial Policy Dialogue.

In parallel, DG GROW is working with DG Trade on the drafting of an FTA' chapter dedicated to "Regulatory Cooperation". It is hoped that the text will be ready before the 14th round i.e. beginning of December. The difficulty we have is that the regulatory cooperation should concern all areas of the FTA e.g.; services, technical regulations ,etc. In addition, the EU industry is pushing for binding commitments as far as the treatment of non-tariff measures is concerned but as such commitments would work both way, we need to find the right balance .