

CECILIA MALMSTRÖM
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, **16 FEB. 2017**

Dear Mr. Beyrer,

Dear Markus

Thank you for your letter of 13 December and the enclosed joint statement of BusinessEurope and Keidanren on regulatory cooperation between the EU and Japan.

Regulatory cooperation is an important area of the EU-Japan FTA negotiations. Such cooperation aims to ensure that the EU and Japan work closely together to prevent the emergence of new barriers to trade in the future which could undermine the benefits of the FTA. With that objective in mind, we have revised our initial proposal on the regulatory cooperation chapter of the EU-Japan FTA and have included more detailed provisions on regulatory cooperation, exchange of information, as well as provisions on good regulatory practices. The revised proposal addresses a number of elements you refer to in your letter. In particular it focuses on the need for 1) streamlined coordination under political leadership between different regulatory bodies, 2) the consideration, where appropriate, of the other Party's regulatory approach in case both Parties engage in regulatory cooperation activity; and 3) enhanced cooperation in international fora.

I would like also to stress that the EU will never agree to provisions in the final agreement that would undermine EU standards in any way, particularly in areas such as food safety or environmental and consumer protection. This includes the regulatory cooperation provisions, which are based on a voluntary cooperation mechanism to exchange experiences and relevant information among regulators, and to help identify areas where regulators can usefully cooperate for the benefit of citizens on both sides.

My services will further examine the joint statement and the ideas for cooperation it presents, and examine how they might be taken forward.

Let me use this opportunity to thank you for the continued support that your organisation has shown for EU trade policy over the years and in particular for these negotiations.

Art. 4.1(b)



Mr. Markus J. BEYRER
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