It was a short courtesy meeting.

The main message of Mr Schulz was that business is very interested in swift conclusion of the FTA. He asked what the EU-Japan Business RoundTable could do to support the talks, and underlined the importance of addressing non-tariff barriers.

CM noted that the talks are now mature, and everything is technically set for a rapid conclusion. We now have a very short political window (till very early 2017), and it would be good if business also presses this point and urges the negotiators to move towards compromises also on the difficult issues. She stressed that since the EU is prepared to make concessions beyond the TPP, we also expect Japan to exceed its TPP commitments, including on agriculture.

CM further underlined the importance of proper implementation of the future FTA, and asked business to continue providing their feedback on what works and what doesn't.

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