

KAREL DE GUCHT
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 26. 05. 2014
MH/kr Ares S(14)1652501

Dear Mr. Brégier,

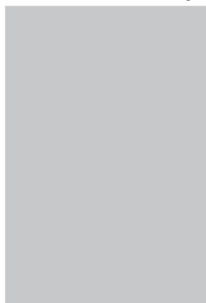
Thank you for your letter of April 2014 in which you sent me the Recommendations adopted by the EU-Japan Business Round Table at their 7th meeting on 8-9 April 2014.

I fully share your view that a comprehensive and ambitious EU-Japan FTA could generate a very significant boost to trade and investment, promote job creation, and spur growth in both economies. I am also grateful for your detailed sectoral recommendations which have been transmitted to my negotiators.

The European Commission will aim in these negotiations to the elimination of tariffs and non-tariff measures, the removal of obstacles in the areas of services, investment, IPR, including on Geographical Indications, and the elimination of measures hindering the effective access of European firms to the Japanese public procurement market, especially in the railway and the urban transport sectors. In this respect you will certainly have noted the positive outcome of the 22nd EU-Japan Summit which took place on 7 May and during which Presidents van Rompuy and Barroso as well as Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed the importance of an early conclusion of a highly comprehensive and ambitious FTA.

Finally, let me use this opportunity to thank you and your organisation for your very useful support to the negotiation process. As mentioned in the last Summit's joint press statement, the BRT, and the business community in general, have a key role to play and their support to the negotiation process remains essential at all stages.

Yours sincerely,



*Mr. Fabrice Brégier
EU-Japan BRT co-Chair Action
President & CEO
AIRBUS S.A.S.*