Dear Mr Brégier,

I would like to thank you on behalf of Vice-president Tajani for your letter including the latest recommendations of the EU-Japan Business Round Table.

He asked me to reiterate his appreciation for your dedication to the EU-Japan Business Round Table with your Japanese counterpart Mr Yonekura, which led to the successful 16th annual meeting and the comprehensive recommendations. The Commission will now study the recommendations very carefully to prepare the annual progress report and work towards their timely implementation where possible. The recommendations of the BRT provide a very useful guidance for the parallel negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement and a Strategic Partnership Agreement with Japan. They address sectors such as trade, regulatory cooperation, investment, services, public procurement which are the topics tackled in those negotiations.

We would like to wish you every success as you continue this work on behalf of EU business in a spirit of cooperation with the Japanese business community. We hope that we can continue to rely on you to provide the negotiators with your valuable experience and support as you can count on our backing.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Calleja