Head of Cabinet Maria Åsenius and the undersigned me on 12 July 2017 at their request Messrs Danny Risberg and Bjorn Kongstad from the European Business Council in Japan, which represents European businesses present in Japan.

Messrs Risberg and Kongstad noted that the business community across all sectors was very pleased that an agreement in principle had been reached for an EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement. They welcomed the far-reaching transparency efforts of the Commission in publishing the texts that had been agreed so far, and were particularly pleased of the inclusion of the first-ever SME chapter in an EU trade agreement. They informed that they are examining how to inform and to maximise the benefits of the future agreement for SMEs.

Maria Åsenius strongly encouraged these efforts.

**Jon NYMAN**
Member of Cabinet of Cecilia MÅLMSTRÖM
Commissioner for Trade

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