



EUROPEAN UNION  
Delegation to Japan

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Art. 4.1(b)

Tokyo, 18 July 2017  
DELJPN [REDACTED] (2017)

**EU COMMERCIAL COUNSELLORS' MEETING**

**JULY 5 2017, EUROPA HOUSE**

Out of scope

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**2. EPA**

Commissioners Malmström and Hogan visited Tokyo from 30 June to 1 July and met MoFA Minister Kishida and MAFF Minister Yamamoto to discuss the few outstanding issues. Major progress was achieved and we are now very close to an agreement in principle. It only needs final confirmation by Prime Minister Abe and Presidents Juncker and Tusk when they meet at the EU-Japan summit on 6 July. Prior to the summit,

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Europa House, 4-6-28 Minami-Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0047, Japan.  
Tel Main: +81 (0)3 5422 6001 - Tel Direct: +81 (0)3 5422 [REDACTED] - Fax: +81 (0)3 5420 5544 - E-mail: [Delegation-Japan@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Delegation-Japan@eeas.europa.eu), <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/japan>  
E-mail: [REDACTED]@eeas.europa.eu

Commissioner Malmström will meet Minister Kishida on 5 July with a view to preparing the deal to be endorsed by the leaders.

At the TPC deputies on 7 July, the Commission will be able to give the Member States more details on the contents of the agreement in principle.

The agreement in principle is a major step but it does not mean the end of the negotiating process. Some chapters are not finalised yet, such as the one on Regulatory Cooperation, while others still require a substantial amount of "cleaning" before the next step, the legal scrubbing, could start. Therefore, at this stage, the Commission is not seeking a formal endorsement of the outcome, and there will be ample time for discussion with the MS, before the end of the negotiations. Reaching the agreement in principle just before the G20 summit will demonstrate that the EU-Japan EPA agreement will constitute the basis for a strategic alliance for free and fair trade, against protectionism.

Out of  
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