


Meeting with Business Europe on Japan, 7/02/2013

BDI enquired about the impact of the change of government in Japan and of their new monetary policy.

ESF expressed their worried that the review clause would only be about listed NTBs and that it would not be based on an overall picture. They also enquired about the possible participation of Japan to the TPP. Several members asked for details about how the review clause would work.

GM and ACEA asked clarification about the 1 year review: would it be based on a list of requirements that would be agreed at the summit? Another member asked how we could keep the reform momentum in Japan after the negotiation.

[Art. 4.1(b)]  gave details about the timing of the negotiations and the next steps. Change of government does not seem to have affected Japan's commitment to the FTA. Change of monetary policy is too recent to assess but if they were to move towards competitive devaluation this would of course not help the negotiation. He clarified that the assessment by the Commission after 12 months would mostly be based on the engagements taken by Japan during the scoping exercise. On the TPP: too early to tell but if JN were to join it could have both a positive impact (more pressure on them to move in sensitive areas such as agri) and a more negative one (on GIs).