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Directorate-General for Trade

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Agriculture, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Market Access, Biotechnology

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MEETING REPORT MEETING WITH JAPAN TOBACCO INTERNATIONAL HOLDING B.V., 27 MARCH 2017

Japan Tobacco International Holding B.V. (JTI) representatives requested this meeting to better understand the EU's position on various trade issues. Main issues discussed were:

- JTI's Agricultural Labour Practices are in force since 2013 and support JTI's commitment to sustainable tobacco farming in order to comply with internationally recognised labour standards regarding child labour, workers' rights and workplace health and safety. JTI tries to engage governments in partner countries and works together with other tobacco companies, also focussing on non-tobacco products (chemicals, tea, rice etc). JTI was interested in COM's follow up of labour issues in FTAs and if a dispute settlement provision applies. COM explained that the model used in FTAs is based on partner countries' engagement and that civil society is involved; in case of non-compliance, the issue is discussed between the parties and if no solution is found, a panel of experts can be requested;
- At the request of JTI, COM outlined prospects for the negotiations with Mercosur, Mexico, Japan and ASEAN countries, the state of play of TTIP. Furthermore, JTI wanted to know the date of the provisional application of CETA, information which is not available yet.

Participants

Japan Tobacco International Holding B.V.: Geir Ulle (International Trade Director), Vuk Pribic (Global Leaf Labour Practice Director), Paolo Bochiccio (EU Affairs Director) (EU transparency register 71175716023-03)

DG TRADE: [Art. 4.1b], [Art. 4.1b], [Art. 4.1b], [Art. 4.1b].

[Art. 4.1b]