



Brussels, 7 May 2015  
TRADE G.3/ [Art. 4.1(b)]

## MARKET ACCESS WORKING GROUP ON CHEMICALS

24 February 2015, 14.30 – 17.30

### REPORT

Chair: [Art. 4.1(b)] (TRADE G.3)

Attendance:

**Member States:** AT, BE, CZ, DE, FI, EE, ES, FR, HU, IE, LT, LV, PL, PT, RO, SK, SE, UK

**EU business:** CEFIC, BASF, Bayer, Procter & Gamble, ENA, Dow, FECC

**COM:** DG TRADE, DG ENTR

Summary: *Useful 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Chemicals WG with good participation from Member States, business and COM services.*

[Outside the scope of the request]

#### *4. Japan – chemicals-related NTBs in ongoing FTA negotiations*

COM provided an update on the ongoing EU-Japan FTA negotiations. The 8<sup>th</sup> negotiating round took place on 8-12 December 2014 in Tokyo. The 8<sup>th</sup> round took place just ahead of the snap elections to the Japanese Parliament scheduled for 14 December 2014. Due to the looming elections, progress during the 8<sup>th</sup> round was relatively limited on major issues, but still allowed for further consolidation of the negotiating text.

One of the important elements discussed at the 8<sup>th</sup> round was the presentation by the EU of the second list of non-tariff measures (NTMs). The presentation was followed by Q&A sessions to clarify the factual points. Japan was non-committal in terms of any possible solutions of items included in the second list of NTMs, but engaged into clarifications concerning each and every item included in the list.

With regard to the chemical sector, there are two items included in the NTM lists (i.e. one of the first list, one on the second list). On the first list, the EU raised the issue of "testing requirements for registration purposes of new chemical substances, notably tests on bio-degradability of organic chemicals". This issue was not discussed during the 8<sup>th</sup> round but will be taken up during the 9<sup>th</sup> round. The chemical issue on the second list of NTMs is linked to Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for chemicals, notably insufficient harmonisation with international standards and a slow approval process especially for new active ingredients in crop protection products. On this issue, Japan requested more examples of problems; COM would welcome further industry input.

FR noted that some important issues were missing on the second NTM list. Industry added that there was some progress on bovine gelatine (which is part of the second list), but the work to resolve this case is still ongoing. Industry also pointed to a recent

initiative by DG GROW to work together with METI to enhance EU-Japan regulatory cooperation.

[Outside the scope of the request]