



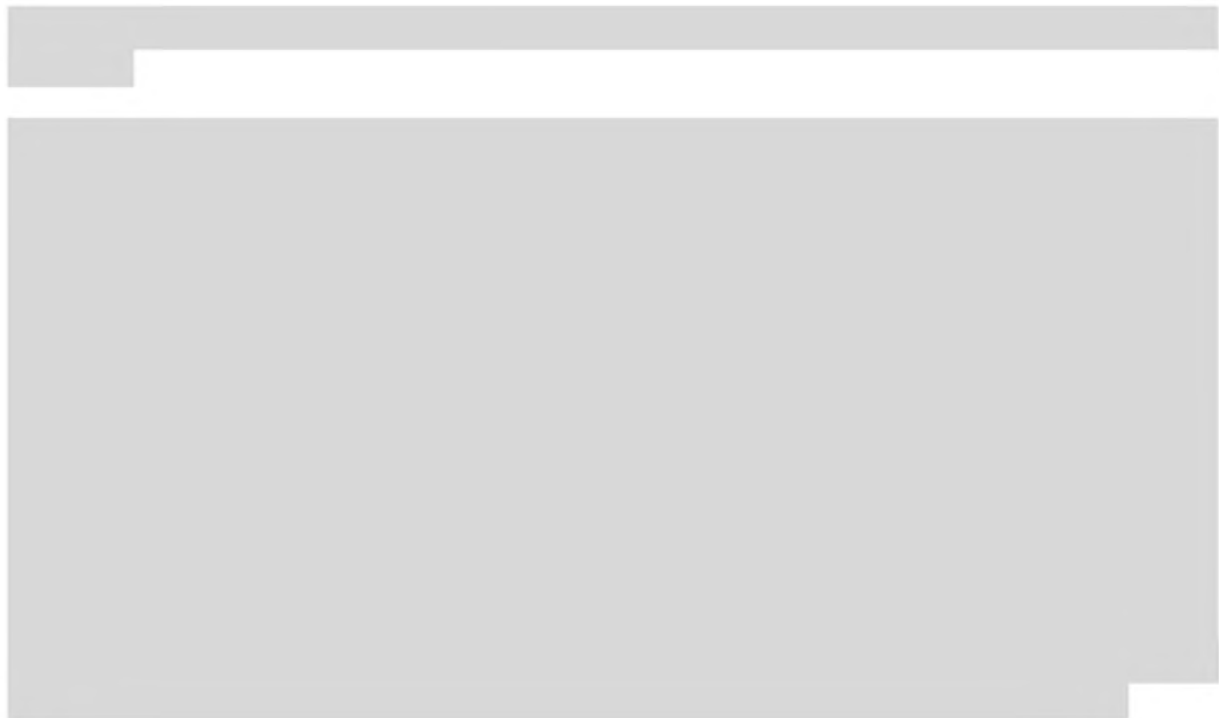
EUROPEAN UNION
Delegation to Japan

Art. 4.1(b)

Tokyo, 8 March 2017
DELJPN (2017)

EU COMMERCIAL COUNSELLORS' MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 8 MARCH 2017, 10.00-12.00, EUROPA HOUSE

Out of
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2. FTA updates

On the topic of the FTA, the Delegation gave an update on recent developments.

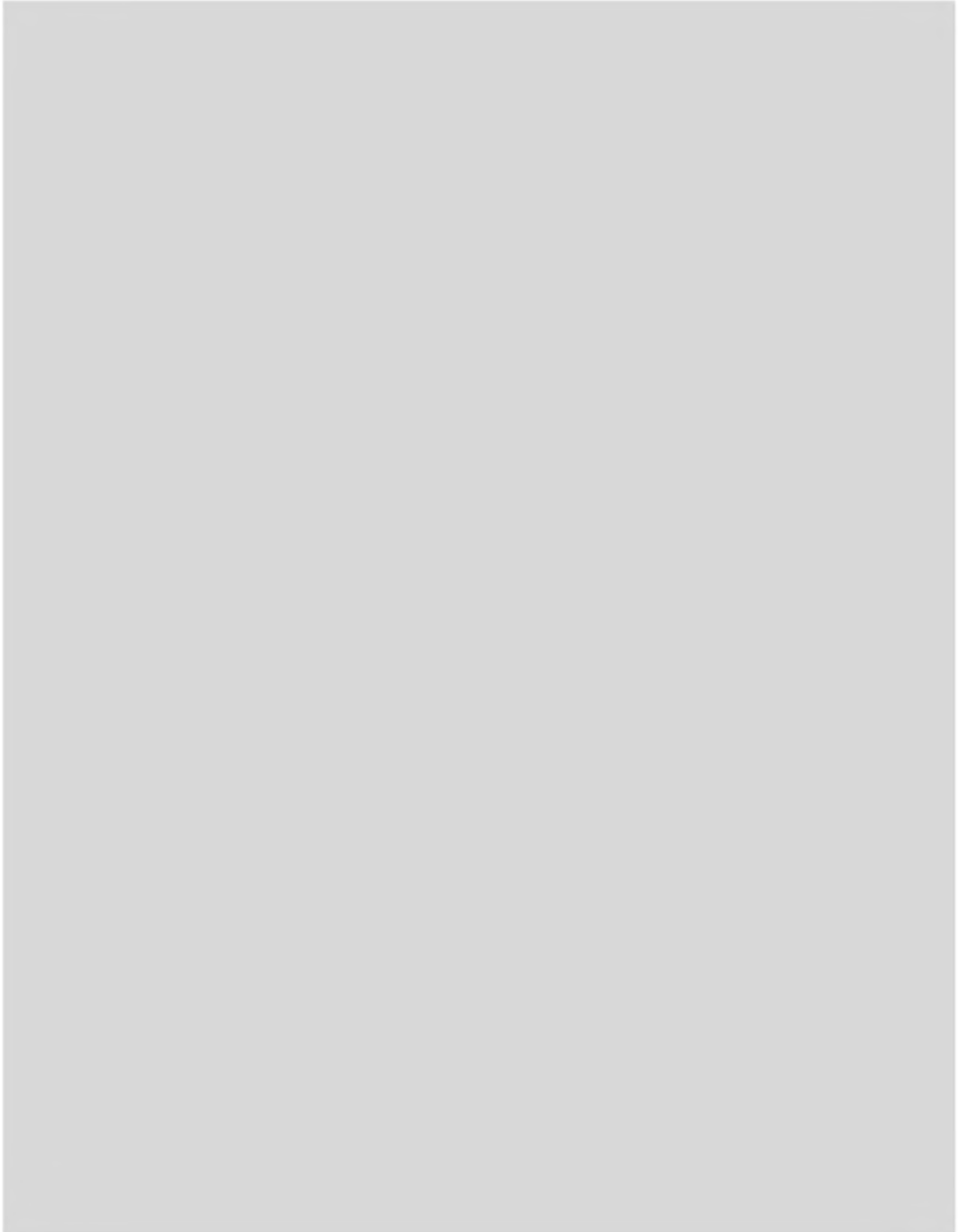
A meeting between Commissioner Malmström and FM Kishida took place on 17 February in Bonn in the margins of the G20 FM meeting. While a commitment to finalize the FTA was reaffirmed, no specific timeline was set. Commissioner Malmström stressed that the negotiations should continue on all aspects besides dairy, on which a political decision will be needed to find a solution. The dairy sector reform bill is expected to pass the Diet in May-June. The EU is pushing for a resuming of the formal round of negotiations, but no round has been fixed yet.

An expert meeting with the Member States in presence of the leads of working groups took place on 23 February in Brussels, attended by all 28 MS's. During the meeting the leads provided information on the state of play of all the working groups, except GIs and IPS (since technical meetings mainly on IPR and GI's were taking place in Tokyo).

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PM Abe will be in Europe 20-21 March and high level contacts with the EU are planned. There is a good chance to reach an agreement in principle before the summer break unless there are new, complicating developments, such as a possible launch of trade negotiations between the US and Japan.

Out of
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