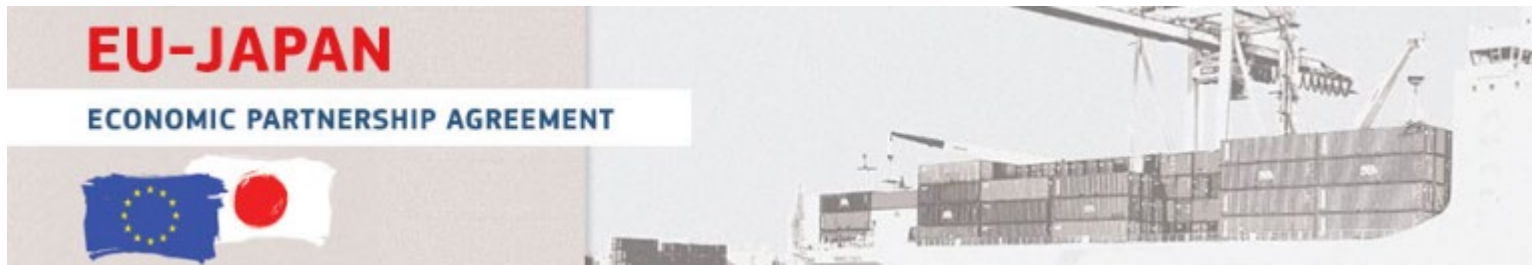




EU-Japan & SMEs

Thursday 28 April 2022

Flavia URSULESCU (DG TRADE, Unit F1)



- entered into force on 1 February 2019
- 7th trading partner for exports; 8th for imports (2021 figures)
- removes tariffs and other trade barriers
- makes life easier for SMEs from both sides to export and import
- Includes a stand-alone SME Chapter

EU-JAPAN

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT



SME Chapter:

- Raises awareness of SMEs of agreement's benefits
- Ensures transparency of all kind of import requirements
- Establishes an appropriate institutional set-up in the implementation of the agreement
- Enhances cooperation between Parties on matters of relevance to SMEs

Two main features: a) Information sharing; b) SME Contact Points



EU and Japan should provide information on access to each other's market.

Article 2 - Information Sharing: each Party is responsible to set up and maintain an own single SME website with updated, preferably in English:

1) Relevant information for SMEs about the **agreement**

EU: <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-japan-economic-partnership-agreement/smes-and-eu-japan/>

Japan: https://www.mofa.go.jp/ecm/ie/page23e_000546.html

2) Links to **websites of authorities** with specific market information: importation regulations & procedures, IPR regulations and procedures, technical regulations & obligatory conformity assessment procedures, SPS measures, rules on public procurement, business registration, customs fees, EU-Japan CIC, etc;

3) **Electronically searchable database** by tariff nomenclature: customs duties and quotas, taxes, rules of origin, information for import procedures, non-tariff measures/regulations, etc



Article 3 – SME Contact points

Appropriate institutional set-up to handle SME issues which are of a horizontal nature

One (or more) official(s) would act as a designated SME Contact Point on each side:

EU: F. Ursulescu (TRADE), M. Hubert (GROW); **Japan:** Hiromi Noguchi (MOFA)

The tasks of SME Contact points include, *inter alia*:

- Ensuring that information sharing is accurate
- Ensuring that SME interests are taken into account in implementing the Agreement
- Report to Trade Committee on SME related matters



In practice:

- EU-Japan **Joint Activity Report** on SMEs activities to the 3rd Joint Committee
- SME matters raised with Japan:
 - Trade in Goods Committees;
 - EU-Japan Joint Committee at Ministerial level
- Active assistance to SMEs via
 - Access2Markets with its integrated ROSA and Access2Procurement
 - EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation in Brussels and Tokyo

