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# Mutual Recognition, Harmonisation and International standards

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# Non-tariff barriers and regulatory divergence

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- NTBs: Major barriers to bilateral EU-Japan trade
- ➔ How to address them:
  - Impact assessments:
    - Which barriers to trade exists?
    - What are the right ways to tackle them effectively?
  - Need for common methodology
  - Start with most promising economic sectors



## Elimination of NTBs

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- WTO TBT (and SPS) agreements:
  - Excellent basis and reference tool for discussions in the context of any regulatory dialogues
- Key issues:
  - Improvement of transparency
  - Reliance on international standards
  - Conformity assessment procedures



# Transparency

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- Key condition for business
- Tools:
  - Consultations on existing regulations / before new regulations
  - User-friendly information documents
  - Strengthened regulatory cooperation at expert level
  - Impact assessments
  - Involve industry



## Standards

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- Importance of standards:
    - Access to know-how and technical information
    - Vital to support innovation
    - Open up markets to different competitors
    - Increase transparency and boost consumer confidence
  - Objective:
    - Mutual market access on the basis of “one standard - one test - accepted everywhere/in both economies”
- **BUT:** Reliance on international standards is only effective if these are used/implemented without national deviations



## Conformity assessment procedures

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- Supplier's declaration of conformity (SDoC): simplest and least burdensome means
- Apply proportionality principle (e.g. risk-based approach):
  - Simplified procedures
  - Post-market surveillance
  - Streamline regulatory approvals
- Promote international mutual recognition schemes
- Need for similar regulatory regimes



## Recommendations

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- Improve transparency
- Apply international standards
- Jointly take the lead in promoting new international standards
- Mutually recognize products certified under similar and equivalent product standards
- Harmonize regulations and systems where possible
- ➔ Drive regulatory convergence forward through increased cooperation at highest level in strongly regulated areas (like transport, telecoms, health, industry, financial regulation)