



29 November 2012

EU-JAPAN FTA NEGOTIATIONS: FOCUS ON THE REMOVAL OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS

The Council of Trade Ministers decided to launch negotiations on a free-trade agreement with Japan today. More open trade and investment could create genuine economic benefits for both the EU and Japan, provided that long-standing obstacles in the areas of non-tariff barriers, tariffs, services, procurement, investment, competition and intellectual property rights are effectively removed in the negotiations.

BUSINESSEUROPE hopes that Japan will prove its strong commitment and ability to open the Japanese market by removing long-standing barriers to trade and investment. European companies also ask the European Commission to obtain real market access.

Philippe de Buck, Director General of BUSINESSEUROPE: *“The level of ambition in the negotiations must be high for all market access issues. Particular focus must be given to the removal of non-tariff barriers. The agreement must create a level playing field between the two economies.”*

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

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