EU-Japan & SMEs

Thursday 28 April 2022

Flavia URSULESCU (DG TRADE, Unit F1)
• entered into force on 1 February 2019
• 7\textsuperscript{th} trading partner for exports; 8\textsuperscript{th} 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
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


Japan: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/ecm/ie/page23e_000546.html](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
Thank you