

**JBCE and BUSINESSEUROPE co-host Breakfast Discussion Event:  
“The EU – Japan FTA/EPA negotiations: discussions on the way forward”  
with Chief negotiators**

Wednesday, 2nd March 2016,  
BUSINESSEUROPE premises, Brussels, Belgium

On 2 March 2016, JBCE, together with BUSINESSEUROPE, organised a breakfast discussion focused on the EU-Japan FTA/EPA negotiations.

The event was held on the BUSINESSEUROPE premises, in the presence of Mr. Mauro Petriccione (Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Trade, European Commission), H.E. Ambassador Koji Haneda (International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan), and H.E. Ambassador Keiichi Katakami (Mission of Japan to the EU). Also participating were representatives from Japanese ministries, EU institutions, and around 50 corporate members of BUSINESSEUROPE and JBCE.

This event was timed to coincide with the 15th round of the EU-Japan EPA/FTA negotiations in Brussels, and both Mr. Petriccione and H.E. Haneda touched upon the progress of these negotiations. They both emphasised the importance of this EPA/FTA and of ensuring that the EU and Japan reach a common understanding and move the discussion forward. With still some distance to be covered to achieve both parties' high expectations for the process, the speakers nonetheless declared themselves confident that a comprehensive, high-level and balanced conclusion could be reached in 2016.

During the Q&A session, participants heard the views of the negotiators on regulatory cooperation as well as on sectorial interests including public procurement, food, automotive, and e-commerce.

JBCE President, Mr. Hidehito Murato, thanked all participants for their contributions and stressed the importance of Mega FTA's such as the EU-Japan EPA/FTA for consolidating stable and peaceful international relationships and ensuring an open and fair global economic system. He announced the the strong support of industry for an early, ambitious, and successful conclusion to the EU-Japan EPA/FTA negotiations.

