

Background note from DG AGRI
EU-JAPAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

[24/11/2014]

EU-JAPAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (Under Negotiation)

1. Parties and regional factors

- Bilateral negotiations between EU and Japan.
- Together the EU and Japan account for more than a third of the world's GDP.
- Japan is also engaged in the TPP, including the negotiations with the U.S.

2. Dates of negotiations

- The negotiations were officially launched on 25 March 2013. The first round took place on 15-19 April 2013 in Brussels.
- Seven rounds have taken place so far. Japan aims to reach a political conclusion by the end of 2015.
- The next round will take place in the week of 8 December 2014 in Tokyo.

3. Particular issues in negotiation - agricultural trade

- Japan agricultural sector is protected via a complex border regime.
- EU has strong offensive (most traded lines or with high potential) and no defensive interests in agriculture.
- In agriculture besides negotiations on tariffs, the EU aims at elimination of non-tariff measures, solution of SPS issues and protection of geographical indications.