



Joint Press Release

The Second EC-Japan Joint Customs Co-operation Committee

Tokyo, 17 September 2009

Director General Toshiyuki Ohto, Customs and Tariff Bureau of Japan and Director General Walter Deffaa, Taxation and Customs Union of the European Commission co-chaired the second Japan-EC Joint Customs Cooperation Committee (JCCC). The JCCC oversees the implementation of the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the European Community on Co-Operation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters (CCMAAA), which came into force on 1 February 2008.

The JCCC examined the impact on customs of the current economic crisis and slowdown of international trade. It reaffirmed the increasing importance of trade facilitation combined with the need to ensure supply chain security and to strengthen Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) enforcement. Enhanced transparency, simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures and risk management are essential tools. Japan and the European Community exchanged information on legislative and other policy developments. They agreed on the importance to promote the implementation of the Revised Kyoto Convention and SAFE Framework of Standards of the World Customs Organisation (WCO).

Japan and the EC confirmed that trade facilitation and the security of the supply chain can be enhanced significantly through mutual recognition of their respective Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes. The JCCC examined the programmes and concluded that they are compatible and equivalent. Taking account also of the growing expectation of the business community, it instructed officials to prepare the appropriate formalisation of mutual recognition by early 2010.

With regard to border enforcement of IPR, Japan and the EC reviewed the trends in IPR infringement and discussed policies to counter it worldwide. They underlined that bilateral and multilateral co-operation is indispensable for the fight against counterfeit and piracy. The JCCC welcomed the first data exchange between Japan and EC concerning goods infringing IPR.



The JCCC reaffirmed that Japan-EC cooperation in international fora such as the WCO and at the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is crucial to ensure the facilitation of international trade and to strengthen customs control against illegal goods at global level.

The EC invited Japan to the 3rd meeting of the JCCC to be held in Europe in 2010.