



Addressing trade barriers under EU-Japan EPA – Role of the EU Delegation in Tokyo/Commission

Danish Business Seminar
28 May 2019

Marjut Hannonen, EU Delegation to Japan



How EU Delegation addresses barriers

- Receive information of a new barrier or potential barrier by own activity/ Member state/EU businesses/company;
- Analyse barrier and decide on the best way to address it:
 - Raise the issue with Japanese government/common demarche with MS concerned ;
 - Letter from Brussels, followed with raising it in bilateral meetings at high level;
 - If systemic and serious case that is in breach with WTO rules, request a panel under WTO DS.



EPA structures

- **EPA Implementation Structures – Purpose is to eliminate barriers and implementation problems;**
- Annual Joint Committee at the level of Commissioner and MOFA Minister;
- 10 Sectoral Committees meet every year and report to the Joint Committee;
- Bilateral dispute settlement under the EPA;
- Annual Summits at Heads of State level.



Benefits of involving EU Delegation/Commission

- We work together with Member states – Jointly we have more leverage;
- EPA structures – provide additional tools to address trade irritants.
More difficult for Japan to ignore.
- Commission is the counterpart for Japan under the EPA;