

2. For that purpose, the Parties may adopt by mutual consent a working plan defining the priorities and categories of animals to be dealt with under this Article, and establish an Animal Welfare Technical Working Group to exchange information, expertise and experiences in the field of animal welfare and to explore the possibility of promoting further cooperation.

#### SECTION C

#### Final provisions

#### ARTICLE 18.18

### **Application of Section A**

1. The provisions of Section A do not apply to Section B and to the regulatory cooperation on financial regulation provided for in Sub-Section 5 of Section E of Chapter 8.
2. Notwithstanding Article 18.3, any specific provisions in other Chapters of this Agreement shall prevail over the provisions of Section A to the extent necessary for the application of the specific provisions.

#### ARTICLE 18.19

### **Dispute settlement**

The provisions of this Chapter shall not be subject to dispute settlement under Chapter 21.

#### CHAPTER 19

#### COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE

#### ARTICLE 19.1

### **Objectives**

The Parties recognise that promoting trade in agricultural products <sup>(1)</sup> and foods between them is in their mutual interest, and aim at promoting cooperation on sustainable agriculture, including rural development and the exchange of technical information and best practices for providing safe and high quality foods for consumers in the European Union and Japan.

#### ARTICLE 19.2

### **Scope**

1. The Parties shall cooperate in the areas referred to in Article 19.1 in accordance with their respective laws and regulations. The Parties shall encourage and facilitate cooperation among relevant groups, entities, competent authorities and other organisations of the Parties.
2. The scope of cooperation referred to in paragraph 1 shall cover:
  - (a) the promotion of trade in agricultural products and foods, including a dialogue on the relevant regulation;
  - (b) cooperation with a view to improving farm management, productivity and competitiveness, including the exchange of best practices regarding sustainable agriculture, as well as the use of technology and innovation;
  - (c) cooperation on production and technology in agriculture and foods;

<sup>(1)</sup> For the purposes of this Chapter, 'agricultural products' does not include forestry or fishery products.

- (d) cooperation on agricultural product quality policy including on geographical indications <sup>(1)</sup>, provided that such cooperation does not overlap with the tasks related to geographical indications of the Committee on Intellectual Property established pursuant to Article 22.3;
- (e) cooperation and the exchange of best practices to promote rural development, such as policies aiming at keeping producers and young farmers in rural areas; and
- (f) consultation on other matters covered by Article 19.1 as the Parties may agree.

#### ARTICLE 19.3

### **Cooperation for the improvement of the business environment**

1. Each Party shall, in accordance with its laws and regulations, take appropriate measures to further improve the business environment in the area of agriculture and foods for persons of the other Party conducting their business activities in the former Party.
2. To further improve the business environment, the Parties shall, in accordance with their respective laws and regulations, promote cooperation between the public authorities and representatives of the respective agriculture and food sectors of the Parties.

#### ARTICLE 19.4

### **Request for information**

Each Party may submit to the other Party a request for information and clarifications regarding measures related to agriculture or foods. The requested Party shall, as soon as possible but no later than 60 days after the receipt of the request, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, provide written information as regards the request made by the requesting Party.

#### ARTICLE 19.5

### **Committee on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture**

1. The Committee on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture established pursuant to Article 22.3 (hereinafter referred to in this Chapter as 'the Committee') shall be responsible for the effective implementation and operation of this Chapter.
2. The Committee shall have the following functions:
  - (a) ensuring and reviewing the implementation and operation of this Chapter;
  - (b) discussing any issues related to this Chapter;
  - (c) reporting the findings of the Committee to the Joint Committee;
  - (d) facilitating cooperation among private sectors of the Parties that contributes to the objectives of this Chapter; and
  - (e) carrying out other functions as may be delegated by the Joint Committee pursuant to subparagraph 5(b) of Article 22.1.
3. The Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure and the details of the cooperation referred to in this Chapter.
4. The Committee may, by consensus, invite representatives of relevant entities other than the European Commission and the Government of Japan with the necessary expertise relevant to the issues to be discussed.

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<sup>(1)</sup> For the purposes of this Chapter, 'agricultural product quality policy' on geographical indications refers to agricultural product quality policy on geographical indications for the products covered by Article 14.22.

## ARTICLE 19.6

**Contact points and communications**

1. Each Party shall, upon the entry into force of this Agreement, designate at least one contact point to facilitate communications between the Parties on any matter relating to this Chapter and notify the other Party of the contact details including information regarding the relevant officials. The Parties shall promptly notify each other of any change of those contact details.
2. The requests relating to this Chapter raised by relevant entities in a Party other than the European Commission and the Government of Japan shall be notified by that Party's contact point to the other Party's contact point referred to in this Article within a reasonable period of time.
3. Communications referred to in this Chapter shall be made in English.

## ARTICLE 19.7

**Relation to other Chapters**

1. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, this Chapter does not apply to matters covered by Chapter 2, 6, 7 or 14.
2. Nothing in this Chapter shall affect the rights and obligations of either Party under Chapters 2, 6, 7 and 14.

## ARTICLE 19.8

**Dispute settlement**

The provisions of this Chapter shall not be subject to dispute settlement under Chapter 21.

## CHAPTER 20

## SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

## ARTICLE 20.1

**Objective**

The Parties recognise the importance of the provisions of this Chapter as well as other provisions in this Agreement that seek to enhance cooperation between the Parties on matters of relevance to small and medium-sized enterprises (hereinafter referred to in this Chapter as 'SMEs') or that may otherwise be of particular benefit to SMEs.

## ARTICLE 20.2

**Information sharing**

1. Each Party shall establish or maintain its own publicly accessible website containing information regarding this Agreement, including:
  - (a) the text of this Agreement, including all Annexes, in particular the tariff schedules and product-specific rules of origin;
  - (b) a summary of this Agreement; and
  - (c) information designed for SMEs that contains:
    - (i) a description of the provisions in this Agreement that the Party considers to be relevant to SMEs; and
    - (ii) any additional information that the Party considers to be useful for SMEs interested in benefitting from the opportunities provided by this Agreement.

2. Each Party shall include in the website referred to in paragraph 1 links to:
  - (a) the equivalent website of the other Party;
  - (b) the websites of its government authorities and other appropriate entities that provide information the Party considers useful to persons interested in trading, investing, or doing business in that Party; and
  - (c) the website of the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation or of its successor organisation.
3. Each Party shall ensure that the linked websites referred to in subparagraph 2(b) provide information related to:
  - (a) customs legislation and procedures, as well as a description of the procedures, the practical steps, the forms, documents and other information required for importation into, exportation from, or transit through the customs territory of that Party;
  - (b) laws and regulations, including procedures, concerning intellectual property rights;
  - (c) technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures;
  - (d) sanitary and phytosanitary measures relevant for importation and exportation;
  - (e) publication of notices for government procurement in accordance with Article 10.4 as well as other relevant information;
  - (f) business registration procedures;
  - (g) taxes collected during the importation procedures, if applicable; and
  - (h) other information which the Party considers to be useful for SMEs.
4. Each Party shall include in the website referred to in paragraph 1 a link to a database that is electronically searchable by tariff nomenclature code and that includes, if the Party considers applicable, the following information with respect to access to its market:
  - (a) rates of customs duty to be applied by the Party to the originating goods of the other Party, the most-favoured-nation applied rates of customs duty and tariff rate quotas established by the Party;
  - (b) customs or other fees, including product-specific fees, imposed on or in connection with importation and exportation;
  - (c) other tariff measures;
  - (d) rules of origin;
  - (e) duty drawback, deferral or other types of relief that reduce, refund or exempt customs duties;
  - (f) criteria used to determine the customs value of goods;
  - (g) country of origin marking requirements, including placement and method of marking; and
  - (h) other relevant measures.
5. Each Party shall regularly, or when requested by the other Party, review the information and links referred to in paragraphs 1 to 4 to ensure that they are up-to-date and accurate.
6. Each Party shall work towards ensuring that information provided pursuant to this Article is presented in a manner that is easy to use for SMEs. Each Party shall endeavour to make the information available in English.
7. No fee shall be imposed on any person of either Party for access to the information provided pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 4.

## ARTICLE 20.3

**SME Contact Points**

1. Each Party shall, upon the entry into force of this Agreement, designate a contact point for the implementation of this Chapter (hereinafter referred to in this Chapter as 'SME Contact Points') and notify the other Party of the contact details including information regarding the relevant officials. The Parties shall promptly notify each other of any change of those contact details.
2. The SME Contact Points shall, in accordance with each Party's rules and procedures, have the following functions:
  - (a) ensuring that the needs of SMEs are taken into account in the implementation of this Agreement;
  - (b) considering ways for strengthening the cooperation on matters of relevance to SMEs between the Parties in view of increasing trade and investment opportunities for SMEs;
  - (c) identifying ways and exchanging information for enabling SMEs of each Party to take advantage of new opportunities under this Agreement;
  - (d) monitoring the implementation of Article 20.2 and ensuring that the information provided by each Party is up-to-date and relevant for SMEs;
  - (e) regularly submitting a report on their activities and making appropriate recommendations to the Joint Committee; and
  - (f) considering any other matter of relevance to SMEs that is covered by this Agreement.
3. The SME Contact Points may, in accordance with each Party's rules and procedures, recommend to the Joint Committee the inclusion of additional information by the Parties in their respective websites referred to in Article 20.2.
4. The SME Contact Points shall endeavour to address any other matter of interest to SMEs in connection with the implementation of this Agreement, including by:
  - (a) exchanging information to assist the Parties in monitoring the implementation of this Agreement on matters of relevance to SMEs;
  - (b) participating in the work of specialised committees and working groups established under this Agreement, including matters of regulatory cooperation and non-tariff issues, and presenting to those specialised committees and working groups, in their respective areas of competence, specific matters of particular interest to SMEs, while avoiding duplication of work; and
  - (c) considering mutually acceptable solutions for improving the ability of SMEs to engage in trade and investment between the Parties.
5. The SME Contact Points shall meet when necessary and shall carry out their activities through the appropriate communication channels, which may include electronic mail, videoconference or other means.
6. The SME Contact Points may seek to cooperate with experts in the field of SMEs and external organisations, as appropriate, in carrying out their activities.

## ARTICLE 20.4

**Dispute settlement**

The provisions of this Chapter shall not be subject to dispute settlement under Chapter 21.