

- (b) facilitate any other communications between the Parties on any matter relating to this Agreement; and
- (c) coordinate preparations for the meetings of the Joint Committee.

CHAPTER 23

FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 23.1

General review

Without prejudice to the provisions concerning review in other Chapters, the Parties shall undertake a general review of the implementation and operation of this Agreement in the 10th year following the date of entry into force of this Agreement, or at such times as may be agreed by the Parties.

ARTICLE 23.2

Amendments

1. This Agreement may be amended by agreement between the Parties.
2. Such amendments shall enter into force on the first day of the second month, or on such later date as may be agreed by the Parties, following the date on which the Parties notify each other that their respective applicable legal requirements and procedures for entry into force of such amendments have been completed. The Parties shall make such notification through an exchange of diplomatic notes between the European Union and the Government of Japan.
3. In accordance with the respective domestic legal procedures of the Parties, the Joint Committee may adopt decisions to amend this Agreement in the instances referred to in paragraph 4. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, such amendments shall be confirmed by and enter into force upon the exchange of diplomatic notes between the European Union and the Government of Japan, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.
4. Paragraph 3 shall apply to:
 - (a) Annex 2-A, provided that the amendments are made in accordance with the amendment of the Harmonized System and include no change on the rates of customs duty to be applied by a Party to the originating goods of the other Party in accordance with Annex 2-A;
 - (b) Annex 2-C, Appendices 2-C-1 and 2-C-2;
 - (c) Annex 2-E;
 - (d) Chapter 3, Annexes 3-A to 3-F and Appendix 3-B-1;
 - (e) Annex 10;
 - (f) Annex 14-A;
 - (g) Annex 14-B; and
 - (h) provisions of this Agreement referring to provisions of international agreements or incorporating them into this Agreement, in case of amendments or successor agreements thereto.

ARTICLE 23.3

Entry into force

This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date on which the Parties notify each other that their respective applicable legal requirements and procedures for entry into force of this Agreement have been completed, unless the Parties agree otherwise. The Parties shall make such notification through an exchange of diplomatic notes between the European Union and the Government of Japan.

ARTICLE 23.4

Termination

1. This Agreement shall remain in force unless terminated pursuant to paragraph 2.
2. Either Party may notify in writing the other Party of its intention to terminate this Agreement. The termination shall take effect six months after the date of receipt by the other Party of the notification, unless the Parties otherwise agree.

ARTICLE 23.5

No direct effect on persons

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as conferring rights or imposing obligations on persons, without prejudice to the rights and obligations of persons under other public international law.

ARTICLE 23.6

Annexes, appendices and footnotes

The Annexes and Appendices to this Agreement shall form an integral part of this Agreement. For greater certainty, the footnotes shall also form an integral part of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 23.7

Future accessions to the European Union

1. The European Union shall notify Japan of any request for accession of a third country to the European Union.
2. During the negotiations between the European Union and a third country referred to in paragraph 1, the European Union shall:
 - (a) on request of Japan and, to the extent possible, provide any information regarding any matter covered by this Agreement; and
 - (b) take into account any concerns expressed by Japan.
3. The Joint Committee shall examine any effects of accession of a third country to the European Union on this Agreement sufficiently in advance of the date of such accession.
4. To the extent necessary, the Parties shall, before the entry into force of the agreement on the accession of a third country to the European Union:
 - (a) amend this Agreement in accordance with Article 23.2; or
 - (b) put in place by decision of the Joint Committee any other necessary adjustments or transitional arrangements regarding this Agreement.

ARTICLE 23.8

Authentic texts

1. This Agreement is drawn up in duplicate in the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish and Japanese languages, all texts being equally authentic, except for Part 2 of Annex 2-A, Schedules of the European Union in Annexes I to IV to Annex 8-B and Section A of Part 2 of Annex 10, which are drawn up in duplicate in the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish languages, all of these texts being equally authentic.
2. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the text of the language in which this Agreement was negotiated shall prevail.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorised to this effect, have signed this Agreement.