



Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2011/2625(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on EU-Japan trade relations		
Subject 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations		
Geographical area Japan		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
09/05/2011	Debate in Parliament		Summary
11/05/2011	Results of vote in Parliament		
11/05/2011	Decision by Parliament	T7-0225/2011	Summary
11/05/2011	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2011/2625(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Oral question/interpellation by Parliament		B7-0220/2011	18/04/2011	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0287/2011	04/05/2011	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0288/2011	04/05/2011	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0289/2011	04/05/2011	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0290/2011	04/05/2011	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0225/2011	11/05/2011	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2011)6333	19/09/2011	EC	

Resolution on EU-Japan trade relations

The House held a debate on Oral Question [O-000088/2011](#) to the Commission on EU-Japan trade relations.

A motion for a resolution closing this debate was due to be put to the vote 11 May 2011.

Resolution on EU-Japan trade relations

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on EU-Japan Trade relations.

The resolution was tabled by the EPP, ALDE and ECR groups.

Parliament underlines that it is in favour of a free trade agreement between the EU and Japan but is not satisfied with the negligible progress in the High Level Group during the last few years. It considers that Japan must make significant commitments on removing non-tariff barriers and obstacles to access to Japanese public procurement before negotiations are launched. Both the Council and Commission have noted that Japan's capacity to remove regulatory barriers to trade is a precondition for launching negotiations on the EU-Japan FTA. The EU and Japan have generally low tariffs on goods with more than two thirds of the Union's export value to Japan being duty-free and more than one third of Japan's export value to the EU, but despite these low tariffs, bilateral trade volumes between the EU and Japan lag behind the bulk of the EU's trade exchanges with its other main trading partners, mostly because of the negative effects of Japanese non-tariff barriers (NTBs) on market access opportunities for European businesses. Members further note that a study in 2009 estimates that the trade costs associated with non-tariff barriers are higher than the existing tariff levels and that most of the potential economic gains reside in the removal of those NTB, and also estimates potential increases in EU exports to Japan of EUR 43 billion and EUR 53 for Japanese exports to the EU if tariffs and non-tariff measures are reduced to their fullest possible extent. Accordingly, Parliament considers that, in trade negotiations with Japan, the Commission should concentrate, as one of its priorities, on removing those barriers and obstacles that are of greatest hindrance to market access for European SMEs.

The reduction or elimination of Japanese tariffs on ICT products, including their parts and components, would step up competitiveness and generate new high-quality jobs in the EU. Parliament calls, in addition, for intensified mutual cooperation between the EU and Japan in the field of R&D and especially on IPR enforcement to accelerate the sharing of information on patents between the respective patent offices.

It considers that the Commission's level of ambition in respect of the EU-Japan FTA, and especially increasing market access for European businesses, should be complemented by jointly agreed comprehensive sustainable development commitments. Furthermore a comprehensive sustainability and impact assessment is paramount to an overall assessment of EU-Japan trade relations. Members ask the Commission to present such an assessment in due time, detailing in particular the possible advantages and disadvantages of reinforced trading relations between the EU and Japan for all sectors involved, and in particular for all industrial sectors and those which are more sensitive, such as the automotive, electronics, aviation and machinery sectors.

Lastly, they recommends that effective bilateral safeguard measures be included in the design of an EU-Japan FTA to prevent a surge in imports that would cause, or threaten to cause, serious injury to EU and Japanese industry, especially in sensitive sectors such as the automotive, electronics, aviation and machinery industries.