



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate A - Resources, Information and Policy Coordination  
**A.3 Information, Communication and Civil Society**

**The Head of Unit**

Brussels,  
TRADE/A/3/MM/DB/lmb  
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**Subject: Call for expression of interest to become a member of the NGO sub group of the EU Domestic Advisory Group pursuant to Chapter 16 (Trade and Sustainable Development) of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement**

Dear member of DG Trade Civil Society Dialogue Network,

In April 2019, the European Commission launched a call for expression of interest to become member of the EU-Japan Domestic Advisory Group (DAG). The Commission received a number of applications from business organisations and from trade unions. The Commission only received a limited number of applications from eligible NGOs. To ensure balanced representation of independent economic, social and environmental stakeholders in the DAG (as foreseen by Article 16.15 paragraph 2 of the EU Japan EPA), DG Trade is submitting a second call for expression of interest allowing more NGOs to apply to the call.

The EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EU-Japan EPA) entered into force on 1 February 2019. The Agreement includes a chapter on Trade and Sustainable Development (chapter 16). This chapter includes the EU's and Japan's commitments to promote labour rights, environmental protection and sustainable development, as defined by international instruments such as ILO Conventions and multilateral environmental agreements including through actions in areas such as sustainable forestry, fisheries, or corporate social responsibility.

Article 16.15 of the EU-Japan EPA provides for the establishment by each Party of consultative mechanisms or domestic advisory groups (DAGs) composed of representatives of civil society organisations. These advisory groups may submit opinions and make recommendations concerning the implementation of Chapter 16.

In order to become a member of the domestic advisory group your organisation needs to meet the following criteria:

- Independent not-for-profit organisation
- Represent and promote EU interests
- Registered in the EU transparency register and in the civil society database of the Directorate General for Trade
- Have specific expertise or competence on areas covered by the trade and sustainable development chapter.

If your NGO is interested to be part of the domestic advisory group for the EU-Japan EPA please send: your statement of interest; name of your organisation and contact details of the responsible person to Mr Didier Bloch by email: [Didier.BLOCH@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Didier.BLOCH@ec.europa.eu) at the latest on Friday 4th of October 2019.

The Commission will accept members of the domestic advisory group for the EU-Japan EPA based on the above-mentioned criteria. The group will then meet to establish its own rules of procedure and will select its core members with a balanced composition representing the economic, environmental and social pillars e.g. business organisations, trades unions, NGOs. The European Economic and Social Committee will provide the Secretariat for the DAG to facilitate the work of the group.

Please note that to ensure adequate balance between members of the EESC and other NGO representatives in the EU-Japan DAG, members of the EESC are not considered eligible under this procedure.

The Commission will provide funding for a limited number of DAG members to attend meetings in Japan or to travel to attend DAG meetings in Brussels if not Brussels-based.

For reference, please find the text (chapter 16) of the trade and sustainable development chapter of the EU-Japan EPA. You can find more information on EU-Japan EPA on DG Trade's website.

Kind regards,



Michelangelo MARGHERITA

Links included in the letter:

EU transparency register: <http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/homePage.do>

Civil society database: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/civilsoc/register.cfm>

Text of the chapter: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1684>

DG Trade's website: <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-japan-economic-partnership-agreement/>

Definition civil society: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/civil\\_society\\_organisation.html](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/civil_society_organisation.html)