

## JOINT STATEMENT

### EU agri-food chain organisations welcome signature of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement

**(Brussels, 17 July 2018)** Copa and Cogeca, CELCAA and FoodDrinkEurope welcome today's signature of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which took place during the EU-Japan Summit in Tokyo, Japan.

The EU agri-food chain partners see this agreement as an important step towards reinforcing the relations with one of our key trade partners, based on a shared commitment to progressive rules-based trade liberalisation and cooperation to achieve mutual benefits. The EU-Japan EPA comes with high expectations, both in terms of tariff reductions and removal of non-tariff barriers to trade, which are expected to create significant opportunities for European exports of agricultural products, food and drinks.

The trade agreement is of strategic importance as it will strengthen the sector's competitive position in the dynamic and growing Asia-Pacific region. Further to the positive EU trade diplomacy efforts in Asia, this agreement will complete the picture of successfully negotiated trade agreements in the region such as EU-South Korea and forthcoming ones with Singapore and Vietnam.

It is now essential that after the signature of the EU-Japan EPA, the European Parliament supports the swift and successful ratification of the agreement.

**-ENDS-**

*Note to the editors:*

*Japan is the EU's fifth largest agri-food export market, worth €6.4 bn in 2017.<sup>1</sup> The impact assessment made in 2016 stresses that the EU agri-food sector as a whole will benefit from the EU-Japan FTA<sup>2</sup>, and more recent estimates by the European Commission predict that EU exports of processed food to Japan could rise by up to 180%.<sup>3</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> European Commission, AGRI-FOOD TRADE STATISTICAL FACTSHEET – Japan  
[https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/countries/agrifood-japan\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/countries/agrifood-japan_en.pdf)  
<sup>2</sup> Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment of the FTA between EU and Japan, 2016  
[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2016/may/tradoc\\_154522.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2016/may/tradoc_154522.pdf)  
<sup>3</sup> European Commission Factsheet "A new EU trade agreement with Japan", 8 December 2018  
[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2017/july/tradoc\\_155684.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2017/july/tradoc_155684.pdf)