

Declaration by Italy

The Italian Government, by means of this declaration, would like to record the following elements:

The European Commission negotiated the Economic Partnership Agreement with Japan on the mandate of the 28 Member States. The negotiations started in 2013 and ended in December 2017.

The Italian Government takes note of the outcome of the negotiations, concluded before its appointment as a result of general elections.

The overall assessment of the Agreement is, in Italy's view, positive in the light of the benefits it will bring to national exports and employment, inter alia through tariff liberalization for agrifood (e.g. wines, cheese, pasta), machinery and textile/clothing, as well as the opening of the Japanese public procurement market and the elimination of significant technical barriers.

The Italian Government, with the involvement of the national Parliament, will carry out a constant and timely monitoring activity of the implementation of the Agreement, and calls on the Commission to do likewise, so as to make sure that the Agreement will pursue full compliance with European safety, environmental and social standards, will guarantee full market access for SMEs and the effective protection of geographical indications, against every form of misuse and misleading denominations.