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**JAPAN – MEASURES RELATED TO THE EXPORTATION OF
PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGY TO KOREA**

REQUEST TO JOIN CONSULTATIONS

Communication from the European Union

The following communication, dated 26 September 2019, from the delegation of the European Union to the delegation of Japan, and the delegation of the Republic of Korea, is circulated to the Dispute Settlement Body in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

Pursuant to Article 4.11 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes, the European Union hereby notifies the Government of Japan, the Government of Korea and the Dispute Settlement Body that, in light of its substantial trade interest, it desires to be joined in the consultations requested by Korea in a communication circulated to the WTO Members on 16 September 2019 (WT/DS590/1, G/L/1325) entitled "*Japan – Measures related to the exportation of products and technology to Korea*".

The European Union notes that the request for consultations relates to export licensing policies and procedures applied by Japan whenever export of fluorinated polyimide, resist polymers and hydrogen fluoride and their related technologies are destined for Korea. These products are used primarily for the production of smartphones, TV displays and semiconductors in Korea, which are traded with other partners. The European Union is part of the global technology supply chain and it is a major importer, exporter and/or producer of the identified products and/or their related technologies. By way of illustration: the European Union is among the top world exporters of hydrogen fluoride with around EUR 27 million in 2018; the main source worldwide of photoresist polymers is Japan, including for the European Union; and the European Union is a major importer of products incorporating semiconductors and displays manufactured in Korea. The request alleges that the measures subject to the consultation request may have an impact on the supply and demand of the products identified in the request as well as downstream products, affecting trade flows in these products.

On the basis of the above, the European Union has a substantial trade interest in these consultations. The European Union looks forward to being informed of the date and venue of the consultations.
