



EBC 2024 White Paper Launch Event 29 February 2024

Adeline Hinderer Sayers, Head of the Trade Section, gave a warm welcome and emphasised the crucial role of the White Paper in day-to-day work, highlighting its broad utility.

Laurent Depus, the newly appointed President of the EBC, focused on the positive theme of this year's White Paper, "**EU and Japan: Avenues for Cooperation**". Depus gave an insight into the contributions of various committees and highlighted success stories such as the initiation and support of the EU-Japan EPA negotiations.

Timothy Magarry of the EBC Legal Services Committee kicked off the presentations, addressing key issues such as the temporary inactivation of foreign lawyers' registrations (gaiben), streamlining foreign lawyers' registration and amending the three-year work experience requirement.

Leon Ochiai, representing EFPIA, provided the European Pharmaceutical Industry perspective, highlighting challenges and ongoing dialogue with Japanese authorities to improve the market's attractiveness for R&D investment.

Eduard Gabric, Chair of the EBC Materials Committee, provided a comprehensive overview of their White Paper, covering traditional concerns such as tariffs (now eliminated for EU origin products) and contemporary issues such as sustainability, export control and sanctions-related issues.

Oliver Ryf, chairman of the Food & Agriculture Committee, outlined the challenges that European companies face despite the benefits of free trade agreements. One example is the quotas foreseen in the EPA. He stressed the need for closer cooperation between industry and government to overcome remaining non-tariff barriers.

Concluding the insightful session, **Stéfan Le Dû**, Chair of the EBC Sustainability Committee, underlined the importance of closer cooperation between the EU and Japan to address common sustainability challenges.