

**Question for written answer E-000335/2011  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Christian Ehler (PPE)**

Subject: EU-Japan FTA

The Commission released a study in November 2009 entitled "Assessment of barriers to trade and investment between the EU and Japan". The report had been prepared for the European Commission, DG Trade, by Copenhagen Economics. The Report suggested that in the bilateral trade relationship between the EU and Japan the EU was significantly disadvantaged in the degree of access to public procurement contracts.

The report estimated that the benefit to the EU of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) could be €76 billion per annum broken down as the elimination of non-tariff barriers (€29 billion), elimination of tariffs barriers (€14 billion) and €33 billion increase in EU income. Over a year from publication in light of these results is the Commission considering opening negotiations with Japan on an FTA centred on a commitment by Tokyo to eliminate non-tariff barriers?