



## **SNAPSHOTS OF THE WEEK - Economic and legal interrogations**

**July 6, 2020**

Marks **two years since the signature**, on behalf of the European Union, of **the Agreement between the European Union (EU) and Japan for an Economic Partnership**. The EU and Japan's Economic Partnership Agreement entered into force on 1 February 2019. The agreement removes the vast majority of the €1 billion in duties that were charged annually on EU exports to Japan. Once the agreement is fully implemented, Japan will have scrapped customs duties on 97% of goods imported from the EU and annual trade between the EU and Japan could increase by nearly €36 billion.

**Could this agreement serve as a model for a future Japan-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement?**

**July 6, 2020**

**The United States of America (US) officially notifies World Health Organization (WHO) of its withdrawal**

The Spokesman for the United Nations Secretary General confirmed the US had notified it of its withdrawal, effective as of 6 July 2021. The US is the global health agency's largest single contributor, providing more than \$400m (£324m; €360m) in 2019, around 15% of its total budget. The withdrawal will call into question the WHO's financial viability and the future of its many programs promoting healthcare and tackling disease.

**How the US withdrawal will impact the WHO on short and long-term?**

**July 7, 2020**

**World Chocolate Day**

According to the legend, World Chocolate Day commemorates the introduction of chocolate to Europe in the year 1550. Nowadays, the top exporters of chocolate are Germany, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands and Poland (2019 data). Cocoa beans are the primary ingredient in the production of chocolate and West Africa produces approximately two-thirds of the world's cocoa beans. Nearly 45% of that cocoa bean production is sourced from the Ivory Coast, followed by Ghana, Indonesia, Nigeria and Cameroon. None of the major producers of chocolate are major sources of cocoa, and none of the major cocoa-producing countries are major chocolate manufacturing centers.

**How the cocoa-producing countries could become sustainable producers of chocolate?**

**July 8, 2020**

**The nomination period for the 2020 World Trade Organization's Director General ends**

Eight candidates, out of which three excellent female candidates, have been nominated by their respective governments. There are many voices considering that the importance of gender should be considered in the appointment of the next WTO Director General. Similarly, there were three highly qualified women in the 2013 WTO Director General selection process, but they lost out to the current Director General.

**Will the WO members have the willpower to choose one of the female candidates?**

**July 10, 2020**

**Negotiation between Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan over the Nile river Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)**

Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia have been negotiating for nearly a decade to reach an agreement on key outstanding issues related to the impact of the \$4.6bn GERD on their water security. The three Nile Basin countries are continuing to engage in diplomatic talks, with Ethiopia asserting that it will start filling the dam reservoirs in mid-July, the start of its rainy season, whether an agreement has been reached. Egypt and Sudan insist that binding agreements are needed to secure their future interests and water security and must be agreed prior to the filling process. The years of negotiation may finally come to an end this month.

**How an agreement between the three concerned parties could be reached?**

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