

Consultation case related to joint activities aiming to achieve carbon neutrality by constituent enterprises of a petrochemical complex



Summary of the consultation case

Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd., Tosoh Corp., Tokuyama Corp., Nippon Steel Stainless Steel Corp. and Zeon Corp. who manufacture and sell petrochemical products, etc. consulted JFTC on the initiatives mainly described in the following aiming carbon neutrality in Shunan Complex

(1) The initiatives such as installation and use of joint power generation equipment, etc. in order to switch from fossil fuel to materials including ammonia which does not emit carbon dioxide during combustion regarding the fuel used in facilities including power generation equipment for electricity(*As a result, expected to reduce significant amount of carbon dioxide emission)

(2) The initiatives such as joint purchase of raw materials to switch materials for the products from basic chemicals (Ethylene, Propylene, etc.) that use fossil fuel as raw materials to bio basic chemicals, etc. that use raw materials that emit less carbon dioxide

(3) The initiatives of joint collection of carbon dioxide emitted during product manufacturing and reuse of it as fuel and raw materials or store of it

Analysis based on Antimonopoly Act

- The initiatives are expected to reduce significant amount of carbon dioxide, and are recognized as the initiatives to realize a green society
- The initiatives are the ones that will affect the cost of the products, but, regarding many of the products, since there is no competitive relationship among Idemitsu Kosan and other four companies for them, the joint activities will not cause a substantial restraint of competition in any particular field of trade
- Regarding the products that are competing products, since the geographical markets for these products are defined as "all of Japan," etc., there are influential competitors, or competitive pressure from users of the products in question, and the joint activities will not cause a substantial restraint of competition in any particular field of trade

Summary of the JFTC's Answer

- ✓ The joint activities (1), (2) and (3) above by Idemitsu Kosan and other four companies do not pose any problem under the Antimonopoly Act
- ✓ Even if it is a joint activity other than (1), (2) and (3) above, the joint activity to achieve carbon neutrality at the Shunan Complex does not pose any problem under the Antimonopoly Act except in cases where it will compose an anti-competitive conduct like a sales-price cartel