

## European services businesses call on all MEPs to take their responsibility and ratify the EU-Japan EPA

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The European Services Forum, representing services businesses of all sizes that export and invest in Japan, call all Members of the European Parliament to take their responsibility and ratify the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) when the vote will take place tomorrow 12 December 2018 at the plenary in Strasbourg.

The European Parliament's INTA Committee examined thoroughly all aspects of the agreement and approved the deal, the plenary chamber must now ratify it, as the Japanese Diet did last Saturday.

The parties to this modern trade agreement represent more than 30% of the world GDP, and will set the pace for future trade agreements, with balanced but ambitious commitments to increase economic growth, create jobs and strengthen the rules-based trade which is nowadays challenged.

Trade in services between Japan and the European Union (EU) amounts to € 50 billion per year, with an increase of 160% since 2010 for the EU exports and € 13 billion surplus for the EU in 2016. Exports between our two regions are projected to increase by nearly a third in both parties.

The agreement will allow better market access notably for European insurances, postal and express delivery services, and will allow our service companies to bid in new Japanese public procurement.

Trade and investment in services, although often not clearly grasped by the members of the European Parliament, create a significant amount of jobs and growth in the EU. Trade in services represents 24.4% of the EU GDP, and supports more than 20 million jobs in the EU. The EU-Japan EPA will contribute to improve this situation, Japan being the fourth largest trading partner of the EU in services.

We therefore urge the European Parliament to ratify the agreement tomorrow, to ensure that the EU, in a time of uncertainties in international trade, will remain a credible and stable trading partner.

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