

# Joint Business call to a successful and inclusive conclusion of the EU-Japan EPA/FTA negotiations

*Brussels, June 16th 2017*



European Confederation of the Footwear Industry



**ceced**



**Cerame—  
unie**

The European Ceramic  
Industry Association

**DIGITALEUROPE**



**E#IC**

European Furniture Industries Confederation



European  
Cultural  
and Creative  
Industries  
Alliance



THE EUROPEAN APPAREL  
AND TEXTILE CONFEDERATION



**EUROCHAMBRES**



**EUROMETAUX**  
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF METALS



representing the  
recording industry  
worldwide



**FTA**

Foreign Trade Association



**MedTech Europe**  
from diagnosis to cure



We, European and international business organisations, signatories of this statement, are strong proponents of fostering trade partnership and cooperation between the EU and Japan. As the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement/Free Trade Agreement (“EPA/FTA”) negotiations approach the final stage, we wish to take the opportunity to reiterate the value of the EU-Japan trade relationship to our industries and to jobs in our respective sectors.

The EU-Japan EPA/FTA has the potential to deliver significant economic benefits and to improve the livelihoods of people working in many sectors, including those of the signatories. In particular, the EU-Japan EPA/FTA represents an opportunity to enlarge markets and improve regulatory coherence, and thereby expand trade and investment in both economies, leading to more economic growth and employment in both Europe and Japan, as well as enhanced competitiveness and productivity of both regions globally.

A timely conclusion of the EU-Japan EPA/FTA is needed because it would put in place a clear framework for closer bilateral cooperation, significantly improved market access, and robust rules for EU-Japan commerce at a time when economic predictability has an additional net value. The importance of the EU-Japan EPA/FTA as a tool for enhancing predictability of the economic environment cannot be understated at this time and rules-based trade and cooperation remain strategically important for both the EU and Japan.

We call on both parties to make all efforts necessary to swiftly conclude the EU-Japan EPA/FTA. The signatories of this statement acknowledge the significant progress made thus far across many areas and believe this momentum should be maintained to solve any remaining issues. At the same time, we urge both negotiating teams to show reasonable restraint in their requests now that a comprehensive, high-level and balanced EU-Japan EPA/FTA is within reach.

As always, an Agreement should also comprise a strong implementation chapter in order to guarantee that all commitments are effectively applied by both parties. Such an ambitious, comprehensive and effective EPA/FTA between the EU and Japan would lead to real openness and enhanced competitiveness in both markets, and deliver growth for all.

We call upon the key negotiators to do their utmost to successfully conclude an ambitious and inclusive EU-Japan EPA/FTA as soon as possible. As industry, we remain committed to do our utmost to support policy makers in achieving this goal.

**List of signatories :**

CEC

CECED / European Committee of Domestic Equipment Manufacturers

CERAMIE-UNIE / European Ceramic Industry Association

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