



JBCE Comments for developments of EU-Japan EIA (Economic Integration Agreement)

Date : 27 March 2008

The Japan Business Council in Europe was founded in 1999 as the representative organisation for Japanese companies operating in the European Union. Our membership consists of more than 60 leading multinational corporations corresponding to a broad spectrum of sectors including the electrical, electronic, automotive and chemical industries.

The JBCE's key objective is to contribute to EU public policy in a positive way, drawing upon the experience gained in Japan and other countries and utilizing the expertise developed in specific fields, such as environmental protection and technological innovation.

URL : <http://www.jbce.org/>

We, as a stakeholder in the EU, would like to continue contributing to Sustainable Growth of European economy, which is now one of most important issues among various topics in the EU.

Under Barroso administration, Sustainable Growth Agenda has been discussed through the up-dated detailed plan of Lisbon Strategy. It is, however, not easy to achieve high level growth, while maintaining high level social and environmental concerns in the EU.

World economy is globalized, and market competition is getting harder with inevitable competition with new emerging countries, such as China, which nobody can deny could result a simple price competition.

In this respect, we would like to support the European Commission, in order to achieve European economic growth, to actively promote market integration with economic blocs which share the same high level social and environmental concerns as the EU.

We, from industry side, continue to respond to Europe's high-level social and environmental concerns as well as to respond to consumers' expectations through contributing to establish advanced Information Society by providing products and services. To this end, we need to ensure that our products and services be provided in marketplace in efficient manners.

In order to establish efficient marketplace, we think it is essential to promote harmonization of regulatory environment, such as for energy efficiency and safety standardization, and to dismantle any trade barriers (both tariffs and non-tariff barriers) regarding products and services which contribute to sustainable growth, between economic blocs which share the same social and environmental concerns.

At the EU-Japan Business Dialogue Round Table held in June 2007, it was decided to launch task force by private sectors in order to conclude Economic Integration Agreement with Japan, which shares the same concerns as the EU. This is in fact in line with sustainable growth strategy and we strongly support this initiative. We believe firmly that proactive approach between EU and Japan regarding EIA will lead to creative global marketplace for sustainable growth, in addition to the approach between EU and US which had been launched beforehand.

We are determined to be proactively involved in task force by private sectors, and would like to ask European policy decision -makers to create proactively environment for marketplace which contributes to sustainable growth.



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