

JBCE and AFNUM joint statement
on the EU-Japan EPA and Franco-Japanese Relationship

17 July, 2018

JBCE and AFNUM are coming together to welcome the signature of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) on 17 July. As representatives of a broad cross-section of industries with a global perspective, we are acutely aware of the great benefits that this agreement will bring to the societies and economies of the EU and Japan.

Both the EU and Japan have shown huge political commitment to achieving the outcome of the EU-Japan EPA. In the case of the EU, France has been instrumental in making sure that political momentum for a deal did not fade at any point. The EPA is therefore an expression of the goodwill and values shared by both countries, and can serve as an important foundation for ever deeper cooperation in the decades to come.

It is certainly appropriate to see this important evolution of the Franco-Japanese relationship occur in 2018, as it is the 160th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Indeed, this longstanding relationship will guarantee mutual support in the coming year, as France hosts the G7 Summit and Japan welcomes G20 leaders in 2019. We are confident that both governments will cooperate both during and between these important events, and remain strong supporters of the multilateral trading system.

However, we also call upon both governments to approach the bilateral relationship with a sense of ambition. While the EPA lays the groundwork for cooperation across a multitude of sectors and topics, it should be seen as a stepping stone to even deeper integration. Our membership, often spanning both economies, recognises the inherent value of joint work in areas such as digitalisation, innovation, the environment, and sustainability.

JBCE and AFNUM stand ready to play a leading role in taking the Franco-Japanese relationship further into the future. Together, we can develop the solutions needed for the challenging times ahead.



About JBCE

The Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE) was established in 1999 and is a leading European organisation representing the interests of more than 80 multinational companies of Japanese parentage operating in the European Union.

Our members operate across a wide range of sectors, including electronics, wholesale trade, precision instruments, pharmaceutical, railway, textiles, glass, automotive, financial service and chemical manufacturing.

Building a new era of cooperation between the EU and Japan is the core of our activities. The key goal of JBCE is to contribute to EU public policy in a positive and constructive way by drawing on the expertise and experience of our member companies.

About AFNUM

AFNUM is the Trade Association for the digital manufacturer industry in France. This organization brings together the digital networks suppliers and manufacturers (public and private fixed and mobile networks, signal distribution equipment), digital consumer equipment manufacturers (telecommunication devices, computers, IT devices, consumer electronics equipments and components, A/V devices, photography equipments, image and data storage solutions) and professional equipment manufacturers (printing devices, IT hardware, shipping solutions). It represents in our France 80 000 employees and a turnover of 15 billion Euros