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Joint Statement on Promoting the EU-Japan Economic Integration Agreement

DIGITALEUROPE
Japan Electronics and Information Technology
Industries Association

On behalf of the IT and electronics industries in Europe and Japan, DIGITALEUROPE and the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA) jointly call strongly on European Union (EU) and Japanese leaders to launch negotiations for the EU-Japan Economic Integration Agreement (EIA).

The EU and Japan have maintained a friendly and cooperative relationship in the IT and electronics sector over many years.

Both the European and Japanese IT and electronics industries operate on a global basis. Japan and Europe too are not simply export destinations, but rather massive markets accounting for 40 percent of world GDP, as well as critical global business hubs. To promote further such business development, grow the IT and electronics industries, and advance society through IT and electronics technologies, it is absolutely vital that the European and Japanese markets function as seamless, barrier-free markets enabling business to be conducted freely.

Industrial development in both the EU and Japan has been driven by our strong technological capacity. Drawing on that capacity, an EU-Japan EIA would spur further R&D cooperation and innovation, as well as encouraging tie-ups between companies and more M&As.

Harmonizing Japanese and European systems and standards, facilitating the distribution of IT products and developing international rules would enable the EU and Japan to work together to combat protectionist policies adopted by some newly-emerging economies in the form of systems and standards that give preferential treatment to their own industries. A step in that direction has already been taken at the EU's ICT for Energy Efficiency (ICT4EE) forum, where DIGITALEUROPE and Japanese industry are working together to develop a calculation methodology for the improvement of energy efficiency by ICT.

The IT and electronics industry strongly urges to remove non-tariff barriers: It must be ensured that there is a factual openness of the market, and that this openness not only exists legally. This means all issues of significant economic interest to either party must be solved; the levels of market access to respectively Japan and EU should be comparable.

Furthermore, in relation to non-tariff barriers, the IT and electronics industry supports the relaxation of regulations as a cross-industry issue. We are specifically looking for the simplification and acceleration of working visa issuance procedures in the context of the movement of intra-company transfers (ICTs) between Japan and

the EU and within the EU. The improvement of IPR application systems, and the shortening of inspection times; a fundamental review of copyright compensation systems in the EU to resolve issues such as a lack of consistency and clarity; and also a review as part of the EIA negotiations of chemical substance regulations and environmental regulations such as energy regulations and labeling in order to develop systems which are simpler and more efficient for Japanese and European industry to deal with.

We strongly urge that Japan and the EU agree to launch negotiations as soon as possible toward the early conclusion of an EIA that benefits both the EU and Japan by expanding trade and investment, promoting economic growth and contributing to the development of both regions.