

18 June 2012

JOINT STATEMENT ON PROMOTING THE EU-JAPAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AGREEMENT

Representing the IT electronics industries of Italy and Japan, ANITEC and JEITA hereby urgently request the start of negotiations on the Economic Integration Agreement ("EIA") between Japan and EU.

- IT electronics industry encompasses spans a variety of fields, and creates a great deal of employment. It has a huge impact on the world economy as a highly influential, key economic sector.

- To date the Italian and Japanese IT electronics industries have built cooperative relationships in various fields including R&D and investment. Through EIA between Japan and EU, it's possible to create new added value and spawn innovation through reinforcement of the cooperative relationship between both.

- As advances in IT electronics technologies are rapid, extremely swift judgment is required in R&D and investment. On top of this, IT electronics companies have expanding global supply chains. Therefore, facilitation and liberalization of trade and investment environment for the overall supply chain is indispensable. In particular, if comprehensive economic collaboration is realized for the sake of removing any obstacles relevant to taxable and nontaxable trade and investment between Japan and the EU, which account for 40% of GDP, this will be lead to enhancement of the growth potential of the IT electronics industries in both Japan and Italy, and then to development of the world economy.

- Discussions for reinforcement of economic relationships have been held between the government of Japan and EU. Scoping operations started last year for EIA negotiations, and these discussions are seen to be nearly reaching a conclusion, but if the start of negotiations is not determined, then there would be great disappointment in the IT electronics industries in both Japan and Italy.

- On February 20 of this year leaders of twelve EU countries issued a **joint communiqué** titled "Plan for Growth in Europe." We feel reassurance from the fact that Prime Minister Monti of Italy signed this **joint communiqué**, and we do expect the Italian government to take the initiative in forming an agreement in the EU on the start of EIA negotiations between Japan and the EU.

- Additionally, ANITEC strongly supports a joint statement requesting the start of EIA negotiations between Japan and the EU issued by DIGITALEUROPE and JEITA in November of last year.

- ANITEC and JEITA declare that they will advance and reinforce the cooperative relationship between the parties even further. And for that purpose as well they urgently request the government of EU and Japan make an early start on negotiations on the early execution of EIA.