

25 April 2013

Joint Statement calling for the early conclusion of the EU - Japan EPA / FTA

DIGITALEUROPE
Japan Electronics & Information Technology Industries Association

DIGITALEUROPE and the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA) who represent respectively the European and Japanese digital technology industry associations jointly welcome the launch of the negotiations for an ambitious EU - Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)/ Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Both associations wish to reiterate that the successful implementation of the EPA/FTA will bring much needed economic benefits in terms of strong, sustainable and balanced growth and job creation. The swift conclusion of the negotiations and a timely implementation of the deal are critical in ensuring a thriving digital technology industry market.

The EU and Japan have a long and fruitful history of collaboration in the digital technology field. The EPA/FTA will give the opportunity to further strengthen this partnership by generating additional R&D cooperation and innovation, and by encouraging business development. Both associations are convinced that this enhanced economic partnership will generate economic growth both in the EU and Japan and that this will lead to a more competitive and advanced digital technology sector that will benefit all consumers.

In terms of fighting protectionism, the harmonization of Japanese and European systems and standards, the simplification in the distribution of digital technology products as well as the development of international rules will enable the EU and Japan to fight against rising protectionist policies. This is particularly directed towards some newly-emerging economies and the growing trend in creating systems and standards that give preferential treatment to their own industries. In order to accelerate the regulatory cooperation, DIGITALEUROPE and JEITA will continue the industry to industry dialogue towards this common goal.

To conclude, the European and Japanese digital technology industries call upon decision makers to swiftly agree on an ambitious EPA/FTA that will eliminate both tariff and non-tariff barriers so that the digital technology sector can reap the benefits in terms of widened trade and investment, increased employment, and expanded economic growth.