



JAPAN ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

OTE CENTER BLDG.  
1-1-3, OTEMACHI, CHIYODA-KU, TOKYO, 100-0004, JAPAN  
TEL: +81-3-5218-1060 FAX: +81-3-5218-1079

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### **Promotion of the EU-Japan Economic Integration Agreement**

The Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA) is a leading Japanese organization in the IT and electronics sector which consists of over 430 IT and electronics equipment manufacturers.

The Japanese IT and electronics industry has a long and amicable history of doing business in the EU with great support from EU governments, and we are most appreciative of that support.

We understand that discussions are underway between EU and Japanese government representatives on all trade issues, including both tariff and non-tariff measures, toward reaching agreement at the EU-Japan summit scheduled for this May. We have great interest in the EU-Japan EIA (Economic Integration Agreement) negotiations and are eager to see early conclusion of the agreement. Accordingly, we would like to express our views on behalf of the Japanese IT and electronics industry,

The Japanese IT and electronics industry has in fact created many jobs through a broad range of business activities in the EU, including production, sales, R&D and regional headquarters. The EU is not only a market, but is also home to key hubs in the global operations of Japanese IT electronics firms. JEITA member companies operate over 100 factories in 16 countries in the EU and employ 100,000 people in production, sales and R&D. For those companies which are already European corporate citizens, it is accordingly absolutely critical that the EU has an open and fair trade and investment structure. An unlevel playing-field and high tariff barriers for certain products make it difficult for European consumers to enjoy state-of-the-art technology and for European companies to upgrade their technologies and industrial processes. To ensure a more equitable trade and investment structure and promote economic growth through greater trade and investment between the EU and Japan, we urge that negotiations on a mutually beneficial EU-Japan EIA are launched as soon as possible toward an early conclusion.

The Japanese IT and electronics industry has built up friendly and cooperative relations with EU industry over many years. We look forward to maintaining and further developing that relationship through an EU-Japan EIA, which we expect to promote further R&D collaboration, innovation, corporate alliances and M&As between EU and Japan. We also believe that an EU-Japan EIA would open considerable space for cooperation between the EU and Japan toward improving trade and investment conditions in third countries. JEITA looks forward to being able to continue cooperating with the EU in various fields to promote economic exchange and contribute to the sustainable growth of both our economies. We would be most grateful if you would take our views into consideration in your deliberations.