



# European Business Calls for Swift Ratification of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement

*Brussels, 12 October 2018*

The European business organisations, signatories of this statement, hereby reiterate their strong support for the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), and call on the European Parliament to proceed with a swift ratification process, following the signature of the Agreement on 17 July 2018. This will allow both businesses and consumers as a whole to reap the benefits of this modern, comprehensive and balanced Agreement.

Japan and the EU are two like-minded and highly developed economies with a similar approach to today's challenges (i.e. aging population, security, environment) and long-standing trade and investment links. Trade in goods and services between Japan and the EU exceeds 160 billion euro per year, and bilateral exports are estimated to increase by 29% for Japan and 34% for the EU.<sup>1</sup>

While the international community is witnessing a rise in protectionist measures across the world, the EU and Japan have, on numerous occasions, repeatedly sent positive signals by confirming their strong commitment to free and fair trade at both the multilateral and the bilateral level.

Our European business organisations here represented are convinced that the ratification of this Agreement will further reinforce the existing strategic collaboration, notably by creating a trade zone of 600 million people covering a third of global GDP, and by paving the way to shape together tomorrow's international rules.

We stand strong behind this Agreement as it will deliver many benefits, such as:

- contributing to advancing both the social and economic agenda and thereby improving the quality of peoples' lives in the EU and in Japan;
- ensuring economic predictability, a valuable tool of particular strategic importance in times when rules-based trade and cooperation is challenged;
- enabling a level playing field between both partners, with a whole new range of commercial opportunities for European and Japanese consumers and companies alike;
- removing almost all tariffs on goods, opening up services and public procurement markets and creating common rules for bilateral trade;
- guaranteeing and protecting geographical indications and intellectual property rights;
- facilitating services and investment flows;
- fostering collaboration by means of common R&D, new channels of regulatory cooperation, coherence and standardisation.

The Japan-EU EPA represents a thorough Agreement reflecting the shared interest and high-standard rules of two well-developed and value-based economies. We call on the European Parliament to endorse this high-standard Agreement to allow for its rapid final ratification. We also call on the European Parliament

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<sup>1</sup> European Commission (2016), Final Report ["Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Japan"](#), p.55.

to carefully monitor the implementation of the Agreement to ensure that it delivers on its promises and that long-standing issues are solved.

Signatories:

amfori  
APPLiA  
CEC  
CECE  
CEEV  
Cefic  
CELCAA  
Cerame-Unie  
COCIR  
Copa-Cogeca  
Cosmetics Europe  
DIGITALEUROPE  
ECCIA  
EFIC  
EFPIA  
EHPA  
EPIC  
ESF  
ESIA  
EURATEX  
EuroCommerce  
FoodDrinkEurope  
Fur Europe  
ICMP  
IFPI  
MedTech Europe  
spiritsEUROPE  
UNIFE



sustainable way.

**amfori** is the association of European and International commerce that promotes the values of free and sustainable trade. It brings together hundreds of retailers, importers, brand companies, and national associations to improve the political and legal framework for trade in a



**APPLiA** - Home Appliance Europe represents home appliance manufacturers from across Europe. By promoting innovative, sustainable policies and solutions for EU homes, APPLiA has helped build the sector into an economic powerhouse, with an annual turnover of EUR 47.6 billion, investing over EUR 1.4 billion in R&D activities and creating nearly 1 million jobs. APPLiA has 20 Direct Members and 25 National Associations covering 24 countries.



**Confédération Européenne de la Chaussure**  
**European Footwear Confederation**

**CEC**, the European Footwear Confederation, is the main voice of the European Footwear Industry, incorporating the major national footwear associations of the EU. CEC's mission is to promote the right environment and conditions for European footwear manufacturing to thrive and become more competitive and innovative. In 2016, the industry reached 27 million euros turnover and directly employed 300.000 footwear manufacturing workers. From 2009 to 2017, European players saw the rise of their products' export price to non-EU countries by 113%, while their exports' volume increased by 48%. More information at [www.cec-footwearindustry.eu](http://www.cec-footwearindustry.eu).



COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN  
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

**CECE**, the Committee for European Construction Equipment, represents the interests of 1,200 construction equipment manufacturers through national trade associations in 13 European countries: Germany, the UK, France, Italy, Spain, Czech Republic, Sweden, Finland, The Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Russia and Turkey. CECE manufacturers generate €40 billion in yearly revenue, export a sizeable part of the production, employ around 300.000 people overall. They invest and innovate continuously to deliver equipment with highest productivity and lowest environmental impact. Efficiency, safety and high-precision technologies are key. See also [www.cece.eu](http://www.cece.eu).

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The **CEEV** – Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins was founded in 1960 and represents the wine companies in the industry and trade in the European Union (still wines, aromatised wines, sparkling wines, liqueur wines and other vine products). It brings together 21 national organisations from 13 countries, and a consortium of 4 leading European wine companies. With more than 7.000 companies represented, mainly SMEs, and more than 200.000 direct jobs in the EU, CEEV's members produce and market the vast majority of quality European wines, both with and without a geographical indication, and account for over 90% of European wine exports. The almost €12 billion worth of exports in 2017 led the EU wine sector to a combined positive trade balance of over €9 billion.

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**Cefic**, the European Chemical Industry Council, founded in 1972, is the voice of large, medium and small chemical companies in Europe, which provide 1.14 million jobs and account for 15.1% of world chemicals production. Cefic members form one of the most active networks of the business community, complemented by partnerships with industry associations

representing various sectors in the value chain. A full list of our members is available on the Cefic website: [www.cefic.org/About-us/Our-members](http://www.cefic.org/About-us/Our-members). Cefic is an active member of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), which represents chemical manufacturers and producers all over the world and seeks to strengthen existing cooperation with global organisations such as UNEP and the OECD to improve chemicals management worldwide.



CELCAA is an EU umbrella association representing EU organisations covering the trade in cereals, fresh fruit and vegetables, grains, oil, animal feed, wine, meat and meat products, dairy and dairy products, egg and egg products, poultry and game, cut flowers and plant, tobacco, spices, sugar and general produces. Members include ASSUC, CEEV, CIBC, COCERAL, EUCOLAIT, EUWP, FETRATAB, FRESHFEL, FRUCOM, GAFTA, UECBV, UNION FLEURS. CELCAA's main objectives are to facilitate understanding of European decision-makers and stakeholders on the role played by the European traders in agri-food products; to act as a platform of dialogue and communication with the European Institutions and to encourage public and general interests in agri-trade issues.



Cerame-Unie represents the European ceramic industry. Our mission is to ensure that the voice of this competitive, dynamic, and innovative industry is heard at the EU level. Our membership is drawn from the national ceramics associations across Europe with whom we work to provide solutions to challenges affecting both the industry and wider Europe, in fields such as environment, health, and safety; climate change and energy; trade and internal market; construction and sustainability; research and innovation; raw materials and standardisation. The European ceramic industry covers a wide range of products including abrasives, bricks & roof tiles, clay pipes, wall & floor tiles, refractories, sanitaryware, table- & ornamentalware, technical ceramics, expanded clay, porcelain enamel and ceramic flowerpots. The industry generates over 200,000 direct jobs and a production value of €31 billion in the EU.



COCIR is the European Trade Association representing the medical imaging, radiotherapy, digital health and electromedical industries. Our focus is to open markets for COCIR members in Europe and beyond. To learn more about COCIR, visit [www.cocir.org](http://www.cocir.org)



european farmers      european agri-cooperatives

Copa-Cogeca are the united voice of farmers and agri-cooperatives in the EU. Together, they ensure that EU agriculture is sustainable, innovative and competitive, guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe. Copa represents over 22 million farmers and their family members whilst Cogeca represents the interests of 22,000 agricultural cooperatives. They have almost 70 member organisations from the EU member states.



Cosmetics Europe is the trade association representing the interests of the European cosmetics, toiletry and perfumery industry since 1962. Cosmetics Europe represents, directly, or through our national membership, over 5,500 innovative companies ranging from international corporations to privately held family-run companies and SMEs. The membership of Cosmetics Europe is committed to continuing development of safe, innovative and effective products.

# DIGITALEUROPE



**DIGITALEUROPE** represents the digital technology industry in Europe. Our members include some of the world's largest IT, telecoms and consumer electronics companies and national associations from every part of Europe. DIGITALEUROPE wants

European businesses and citizens to benefit fully from digital technologies and for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital technology companies. DIGITALEUROPE ensures industry participation in the development and implementation of EU policies. DIGITALEUROPE's members include in total over 35,000 ICT Companies in Europe represented by 63 Corporate. Members and 39 National Trade Associations from across Europe. Our website provides further information on our recent news and activities: <http://www.digitaleurope.org>.

## European Cultural and Creative Industries Alliance

the way to the experience offered to consumers.

**ECCIA**, the European Cultural and Creative Industries Alliance, is composed of five European cultural and creative industries organisations - Altagamma (Italy), Circulo Fortuny (Spain), Comité Colbert (France), Meisterkreis (Germany) and Walpole (UK) - who between them represent over 400 brands and cultural institutions. Based on art, culture and creativity, our work is underpinned by continuous innovation, a relentless focus on quality, highly skilled employment and strong export abroad. Our members strive for the highest quality in all they do, from products and services all



European Furniture Industries Confederation

**EFIC** – the European Furniture Industries Confederation - is the voice of the jointly united European Furniture Industries. EFIC was founded in 2006 by seven national federations representing the furniture industries in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey and it was later joined by Portugal, Sweden, Austria, Russia and Norway. Hungary, the Netherlands and France joined EFIC in 2015 and Bulgaria in 2018. Since 2018, IKEA of Sweden is an associated member in EFIC. EFIC now represents more than the 70% of the total turnover of the furniture industries in Europe. For more information please contact: T: 0032 (0)2 287 08 86 | E: [info@efic.eu](mailto:info@efic.eu) | W: [www.efic.eu](http://www.efic.eu)



European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations

the scene of 1,900 companies committed to researching, developing and bringing to patients new medicines that will improve health and the quality of life around the world.

**EFPIA**, the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations, represents the pharmaceutical industry operating in Europe. Through its direct membership of 36 national associations and 40 leading pharmaceutical companies, EFPIA is the voice on the EU



European Heat Pump Association

overcoming market barriers and dissemination of information in order to speed up market development of heat pumps for heating, cooling and hot water production. EHPA coordinates quality initiatives: including the HP KEYMARK, a Quality label for heat pumps and Certification standards for heat pump installers. The association compiles the annual heat pump statistics and organizes a number of events, among them an annual heat pump conference.

**EHPA**, the European Heat Pump Association, is a Brussels based industry association which aims at promoting awareness and proper deployment of heat pump technology in the European market place for residential, commercial and industrial applications. EHPA provides technical and economic input to European, national and local authorities in legislative, regulatory and energy efficiency matters. All activities are aimed at



**EPIC** is the industry association that promotes the sustainable development of organizations working in the field of photonics in Europe. We foster a vibrant photonics ecosystem by maintaining a strong network and acting as a catalyst and facilitator for technological and commercial advancement. EPIC publishes market and technology reports, organizes technical

workshops and B2B roundtables, supports EU funding proposals, advocacy and lobbying, education and training activities, standards and roadmaps, pavilions at exhibitions. [www.epic-assoc.com](http://www.epic-assoc.com).



**ESF**, the European Services Forum, is a private sector trade association that represents the interests of the European services industry in International Trade Negotiations in Services and Investment. It comprises major European service companies and European service sector federations covering service sectors such as financial services, tourism, telecommunications, maritime transport, business and professional services, distribution, postal and express delivery, IT services, environmental services and the audio-visual industry.



**ESIA**, the European Semiconductor Industry Association, is the voice of the semiconductor Industry of Europe. Its mission is to represent, promote and defend the common interests of the Europe based semiconductor industry towards the European Institutions and stakeholders in order to ensure a sustainable business environment

and foster its global competitiveness. As a provider of key enabling technologies the industry creates innovative solutions for industrial development, contributing to economic growth and responding to major societal challenges. Being ranked as the most R&D intensive sector by the European Commission, the European Semi-conductor ecosystem supports approx. 200.000 jobs directly and up to 1.000.000 induced jobs in systems, applications and services in Europe. Overall, micro-and nano-electronics enable the generation of at least 10% of GDP in Europe and the world. Website: [www.eusemiconductors.eu](http://www.eusemiconductors.eu)



As the voice of the European textile and clothing industry at the level of the EU institutions, **EURATEX** aims to create a favourable environment within the European Union for the manufacture of textile and clothing products. The EU textile and clothing industry remains an essential pillar of the local economy across the EU regions, at the same time competing intensively within

the international market and striving for a level playing field with the rest of the world. In its mission to ensure an improved access to world markets for the 176,400 textile and clothing companies it represents, EURATEX is active in negotiations for EU trade agreements. Learn more at [www.euratex.eu](http://www.euratex.eu) and follow us on Twitter [@euratex\\_eu](https://twitter.com/euratex_eu)



**EuroCommerce** is the principal European organisation representing the retail and wholesale sector. It embraces national associations in 31 countries and 5.4 million companies, both leading multinational retailers such as Carrefour, Ikea, Metro and Tesco, and many small family operations. Retail and wholesale provide a link between producers and 500 million European consumers over a billion times a day. It generates 1 in 7 jobs, providing a varied career for 29

million Europeans, many of them young people. It also supports millions of further jobs throughout the supply chain, from small local suppliers to international businesses. EuroCommerce is the recognised European social partner for the retail and wholesale sector: [www.eurocommerce.eu](http://www.eurocommerce.eu)



**FoodDrinkEurope** represents Europe's food and drink industry, Europe's largest manufacturing sector in terms of turnover, employment and value added. FoodDrinkEurope works with European and international institutions, in order to contribute to the development of a legislative and economic framework addressing the competitiveness of industry, food quality and safety, consumer protection and respect for the environment. FoodDrinkEurope's membership consists of 26 national federations, including 2 observers, 27 European sector associations and 21 major food and drink companies. For more information on FoodDrinkEurope and its activities, please visit: [www.fooddrinkeurope.eu](http://www.fooddrinkeurope.eu)



Established in 2014, **Fur Europe** is the result of a merger between the European Fur Breeders' Association and the European members of the International Fur Federation. Fur Europe represents 50 national associations in Europe.



**ICMP** is the world trade association representing the interests of the music publishing community internationally. The constituent members of ICMP are music publishers' associations from Europe, Middle East, North and South America, Africa and Asia-Pacific. Included are the leading multinational and international companies as well as regional and national music publishers, mainly SMEs, throughout the world



**IFPI** is the organisation that promotes the interests of the international recording industry worldwide. Its membership comprises some 1,300 major and independent companies in 59 countries. It also has affiliated industry national groups in 57 countries. IFPI's mission is to promote the value of recorded music, campaign for the rights of record producers and expand the commercial uses of recorded music in all markets where its members operate.



**MedTech Europe** is the European trade association for the medical technology industry including diagnostics, medical devices and digital health. Our members are national, European and multinational companies as well as a network of national medical technology associations who research, develop, manufacture, distribute and supply health-related technologies, services and solutions. For more information, visit [www.medtecheurope.org](http://www.medtecheurope.org).



**spiritsEUROPE** proudly represents the most valuable European agri-food export sector (€10bn in exports, representing a trade surplus close to €9bn) and with it the interests of the spirits sector in 31 national associations as well as of the 9 leading multinational companies. Distilled spirits are as diverse as the EU's Member States, spanning 47 product categories and including a host of geographically-specific products that contribute to the culture of their regions and the European Union. As the leading voice of the European spirits sector, we seek to maintain and advance the freedom to produce and market spirits in a responsible way.



Based in Brussels since 1992, **UNIFE** is the association representing the European rail supply industry at the EU and international level. UNIFE gathers over more than 100 direct company Members – from numerous SMEs to major industrial champions from all over Europe – active in the design and manufacture of rolling stock (i.e. trains, metros, trams, freight



wagons) as well as rail signalling and infrastructure equipment. UNIFE also brings together national rail industry associations from no less than 14 European States. UNIFE Members have an 84% market share in Europe and supply 46% of the worldwide production of rail equipment. For more information, visit [www.unife.org](http://www.unife.org) or follow @unife on Twitter.