

Signing of EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement: we should not waste time to start to make business

Today's signing of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Japan comes at a crucial juncture for European business. As European elections draw closer and the trade feud of the US and its main trading partners worsens, the signing of the EPA will be a win-win for both sides and will help strengthen international rules-based trade.

"Europe and Japan are natural allies and the signing of the EPA puts our business communities on track for delivering increased sustainable growth. Considering current circumstances, and with an agreement of this importance, we should not waste time in the lengthy ratification procedure. We call on the European Parliament to deal with this matter swiftly, so that our business can start reaping its benefits ideally by the beginning of next year already!" stated the President of EUROCHAMBRES, **Christoph Leitl**.

EU free trade agreements with Singapore and Vietnam

Additionally, the signing of the Economic Partnership Agreement with Japan marks another important and much needed step towards increasing European economic ties with the broader region, following the conclusion of the EU free trade agreements with Singapore and Vietnam.

"The EU does well in strengthening its ties with a priority region for EU business after the US retreat from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) last year. Japan is a key puzzle in this equation, and an ever more important ally in dealing with global challenges such as overcapacities. But the EPA will have strong repercussions beyond Japan. It sends a very clear message to the region that Europe is open for business", said President Leitl.

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