

Dear Commissioner,

On behalf of a group of 14 European business organisations, representing a wide range of industry and service sectors, I would like to present to you the attached joint letter concerning the EU-Japan FTA. The signatories have issued this joint statement to call for a deep and comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the prompt launch of negotiations.

While trade in goods and in services between the EU and regional neighbours of Japan is growing fast, such trade with Japan is not. Despite long-lasting economic ties and a high degree of political understanding, the full potential of the business relationship has not yet been realised. Much more can be done to facilitate mutual trade and to take advantage of the huge market opportunities for European businesses in Japan.

Therefore, the signatories of this statement call strongly upon the EU and Japan to launch the negotiations for a deep and comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) as soon as possible. An FTA will deliver significant economic benefits and contribute to the development of both the EU and Japan.

Kind regards

John Higgins CBE

Director General

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