



Joint Cefic-JCIA Statement on an EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement

13 November 2013

The European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and the Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA) continue to support an ambitious and comprehensive trade agreement between the European Union and Japan.

On 25 June 2012, we published a joint statement expressing our strong support for an EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement. In that statement, we focused on several issues, such as tariff barriers and non-tariff barriers, regulatory cooperation, intellectual property rights and rules of origin. In March 2013, the EU and Japan decided to start the negotiations for the FTA. The two trading partners have subsequently had three negotiation rounds, and the Japan-EU summit meeting will be held on 19 November. Against this backdrop, we urge for negotiations to shift into a higher gear and for early conclusion of the talks. So at this stage we would like to reconfirm our firm support for an EU-Japan FTA. In particular we call strongly for commitment to making progress in the talks and for the implementation of associated domestic reforms. Negotiations on difficult issues should aim at reaching agreement at a higher level of ambition rather than seeking watered down compromises. Only then will the agreement allow business to reap the full benefits.

In 2012, chemical trade (excluding pharmaceuticals) between the EU and Japan was nearly in balance, with €6.2 billion exports from the EU to Japan and €6.1 billion from Japan to the EU. The EU and Japan are vital partners in the chemical industry, which constitutes an industrial base by providing raw materials and intermediary products to other industries. Therefore, an EU-Japan FTA eliminating both tariff barriers and non-tariff barriers, promoting regulatory cooperation, strengthening intellectual property rights, and harmonising the rules of origin in the area of industrial chemicals, would benefit the entire manufacturing industry of both the EU and Japan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Bock', written in a cursive style.

Kurt Bock
President
European Chemical Industry Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Takahashi', written in a cursive style.

Kyohei Takahashi
Chairman
Japan Chemical Industry Association