



EBC Secretariat News

EU-Japan Economic Integration Agreement (EIA)

The EBC, the Japanese government and industry associations have actively responded to the proposal for an EIA first introduced by EBC Chairman, Richard Collasse, in his role as co-chair of Working Party 1 the EU-Japan Business Dialogue Roundtable (EJBDRT) in June.

An *EU-Japan EIA Taskforce* will be set up to prepare a detailed study report for the EJBDRT and the EU-Japan political summit in 2008. Both the EU and Japan sides of the Taskforce will be supported by respective *EU* and *Japan EIA Expert Committees*. The EBC is now in the process of forming an EU Expert Committee, which will meet for the first time on September 14. The EBC will serve as the Secretariat of the Expert Committee and prepare the written submission from the EU side.

The EBC strongly advocates that economic relations between Europe and Japan be strengthened through an *EIA* that goes beyond an FTA or EPA by integrating the two countries through regulatory and standards harmonization, and a joint approach to global issues such as climate change, energy security, and technological innovation.

Recent articles in the media: "*Japan -EU launch talks on economic trade deal*" (AP August 29)
<http://www.eubusiness.com/Trade/1188380826.61/>

2007 EBC Policy Report on the Business Environment

The 2007 EBC policy report will focus on the theme of a deeper EU-Japan economic integration and enhancing Japan's competitiveness as a global financial center.

The launch of this year's policy report will be on **November 21** at the Westin Hotel. The annual launch gathers key leaders from government and industry.

Sponsorships for the 2007 Policy Report

If you would like to sponsor the policy report as either Blue star sponsor, Special sponsor, Sponsor or order advanced copies of the report, contact Alison Murray (ebcam@gol.com) Thank you for your continuous and high valued support.

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Summer Event Calendar

DATE

September 4:
SCCJ
"Back to Tokyo Evening"

September 6:
BCCJ
"Foreign Ad Agencies: Davids v. Dentsu's Goliath?"

September 11:
CCIFJ
"Diner des Senpai with Mineaki Saito"

September 12:
BLCCJ
"Real Estate Market in Tokyo"

September 12:
JMEC Information Session

September 14:
BCCJ Briefing
"UK-Japan Briefing"

September 18:
BCCJ Seminar
"Problem Solving and Decision Making"

September 19:
CCIFJ Briefing
"Soiree de Rentree"

September 20:
CCIFJ Seminar
"Droits des Inventeurs"

September 28:
5th Daimler Chrysler Cup

October 11:
ANZCCJ Seminar
"Capitalism or socialism in Japan?"

For details on these events refer to the Event Calendar on the EBC website :
<http://www.ebc-jp.com/>

EBC Committee News

Take-over Rules- for foreign firms

In a notable development on foreign investment regulations, the METI has issued new rules for foreign companies taking over stakes in companies in certain pre-defined sectors of special national security significance such as aviation and space technology. Changes to the Foreign Exchange Law imply that foreign investors may be stopped from investing more than 10% in companies that have products with potential military applications should the government judge that the possession of sensitive technology or material presents a risk to national security. Information in English on the new regulations has not yet been provided by METI. The new rules will be put into effect on September 28.

Logistics and Freight Committee

The newly formed Logistics and Freight Committee will address regulatory barriers and outdated restrictions challenging foreign freight companies. Major issues are high costs and inadequate infrastructure at international airports and customs clearances procedures. The committee will also focus on the impact of postal privatization. If you are interested in joining the committee, contact Jakob Edberg (edberg@ebc-jp.com)