



## Newsletter January 2008

### EBC Secretariat News

#### A Successful 2007 with a Renewed Agenda for the Year Ahead

2008 is upon us and the EBC is pleased to look back on a very successful year in 2007.

Collaborative efforts and active lobbying brought forth notable achievements, and the EBC welcomed a change in rules for takeovers by foreign firms, the Government's willingness to address limitations posed by firewalls, the consideration given to foreign business executives in the implementation of the new immigration procedures, and steps taken to liberalise the aviation industry.

Our annual White Paper on the Business Environment was successfully launched in November. A new and improved White Paper was produced to highlight the theme of renewed reform through economic integration. The launch event was attended by over 260 guests including the European Ambassadors, Japanese Ministry and Parliament officials, and business leaders.

In 2008, the EBC and partner organizations will submit the official recommendations for the Economic Integration Agreement.

In 2008, Japan will host the **G8 Summit**. Numerous high-level visitors from the EU governments will come to Japan and the Summit will draw a renewed interest and focus on business and economic issues here in Japan.

Among the issues of concern to the European business community this year will be how the recent scandals in the food industry may change monitoring and labeling requirements. Companies will also be keen to see if the Cabinet's new campaign on the promotion of safe and reliable products will translate into changes in policy. Of equal concern is how current scandals in the Defense Ministry may impact procurement rules and regulations for materials. In the financial services, the banking industry will be carefully monitoring if the recent drop in equity investment stands to be addressed as a policy issue in the revisions of the FIEL.

In 2008, the business community will continue to deal with the low value of the yen against the Euro and the impact of the global credit crunch on the economy here in Japan.

**Best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year in 2008  
from the European Business Council in Japan.**

**The EBC would like to thank all of our 29 committees, and the European National Chambers of Commerce and Business Organisations for their ongoing contribution, support and dedication to the EBC.**

### EBC Committee News

#### New Committee Chairmen

The EBC would like to express its profound gratitude to Jean-Francois Minier of the Banking Committee and Ian Pulford of the Telecommunications Committee for their expertise and dedication as EBC Committee chairmen. We now welcome Phillipe Avril as the new chairman of the Banking Committee and Mr. Megumi Hasegawa as the new Chairman of the Telecommunications Committee.

#### New Immigration Procedures

Substantial media coverage of the new immigration procedures, included numerous articles on the recommendations of the EBC on this critical issue. Feedback from foreigners indicates that the new procedures including the data registration process and the lines for entry and departure at the airport customs counters are functioning relatively well at Narita.

#### Cosmetics Committee

The committee visited MHLW to express their concern with parallel imports that do not follow the law on labeling requirements. EBC member companies have invested significant time and resources to ensure that their products abide by labeling requirements, and believe that allowing mislabeled parallel imports on the market, distorts the principle of equal treatment and fair competition.

#### Banking Committee

The Committee welcomed the report from the Financial Systems Council announcing that firewall regulations would be at the top of the FSA's agenda. Although article 33 will not be abolished, the current FIEL may be relaxed at least for the wholesale level.

European Business Council  
Sanbancho POULA Bldg 2F  
6-7 Sanbancho, Chiyoda-ku,  
102-0075 Tokyo

For inquiries please contact  
Clemence Mayall (mayall@ebc-  
go.jp)  
TEL: 03-3263-6222 /  
FAX: 03-3263-6223

### Event Calendar

#### DATE

January 15:  
SCCJ "New Year Club Evening"

January 18:  
Maison Franco-Japonaise  
(Nichi-Futsu-Kaikan)  
"Dismissal Regulation in Japan"

January 22:  
FCCJ "Finland's Growth Policy  
in the Age of Globalization"

January 23:  
BCCJ "Secrets behind Luxury  
Brands"

January 25:  
SCCIJ "Japan in 2008- Econ-  
omy, Politics, and Society"

January 31:  
BCCJ "Creating and leading  
sustainable business enterprise"

February 6:  
BLCCJ "EBC Chairman Col-  
lasse on Economic Integration  
Agreement"

February 6:  
BCCJ "CEO of Tesco, Japan on  
Listening Learning and Win-  
ning"

February 7:  
JIEA "Business Networking Eve-  
ning"

February 14:  
BCCJ "Insights into Team Dy-  
namics"

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