



31 JANUARY 2020

DIGITALEUROPE celebrates first anniversary of EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement

One year after the entry into force of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the adequacy decision guaranteeing the safe flows of personal data between the two economies, the Director-General of DIGITALEUROPE, **Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl**, said:

- “Happy birthday to the EU-Japan EPA! This was a landmark agreement for many reasons, not least because it sent a vital global signal in support of open trade at a time of increasing protectionism. Although the agreement is only one year old, businesses, citizens and consumers on both sides are already reaping the benefits.
- “Equally important was the adequacy decision on data, creating the world’s largest area of safe data flows. Secure and unhindered data flows are essential for modern, international companies to succeed. European and Japanese citizens can also be safe in the knowledge that their privacy will be respected.
- “Looking forward, the EU and Japan should continue to lead by example by including ambitious data provisions in a revised, improved EPA, and by pushing for a speedy and comprehensive WTO agreement on ecommerce. They should also continue the excellent cooperation on digital topics like artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and research and development.”

Background

On 1 February 2019, the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) entered into force, setting the new global standard for trade agreements. It is the EU’s most ambitious bilateral deal to date and cements the strategic partnership between Europe and Japan based on shared values, challenges and opportunities.

A few days previously, the Commission secured an adequacy decision with Japan, which allows for personal data to flow freely between the two economies on the basis of strong data protection guarantees.

These agreements demonstrate how global supporters of open trade can spur on international cooperation, as illustrated by the coordinated actions taken in the course of Japan's and France's G20 and G7 presidencies last year to promote 'Data Free Flow with Trust' and 'Human-Centric AI'.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:



Patrice Chazerand

Director for Digital Trade and Taxation

patrice.chazerand@digitaleurope.org / +32 476 56 33 93

About DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE represents the digital technology industry in Europe. Our members include some of the world's largest IT, telecoms and consumer electronics companies and national associations from every part of Europe. DIGITALEUROPE wants European businesses and citizens to benefit fully from digital technologies and for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital technology companies. DIGITALEUROPE ensures industry participation in the development and implementation of EU policies.

DIGITALEUROPE Membership

Corporate Members

Airbus, Amazon, AMD, Apple, Arçelik, Bayer, Bosch, Bose, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Brother, Canon, Cisco, DATEV, Dell, Dropbox, Epson, Ericsson, Facebook, Fujitsu, Google, Graphcore, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Hitachi, HP Inc., HSBC, Huawei, Intel, Johnson & Johnson, JVC Kenwood Group, Konica Minolta, Kyocera, Lenovo, Lexmark, LG Electronics, MasterCard, METRO, Microsoft, Mitsubishi Electric Europe, Motorola Solutions, MSD Europe Inc., NEC, Nokia, Nvidia Ltd., Océ, Oki, Oracle, Palo Alto Networks, Panasonic Europe, Philips, Qualcomm, Red Hat, Ricoh Europe PLC, Rockwell Automation, Samsung, SAP, SAS, Schneider Electric, Sharp Electronics, Siemens, Siemens Healthineers, Sony, Swatch Group, Tata Consultancy Services, Technicolor, Texas Instruments, Toshiba, TP Vision, UnitedHealth Group, Visa, VMware, Xerox.

National Trade Associations

Austria: IOÖ

Belarus: INFOPARK

Belgium: AGORIA

Croatia: Croatian Chamber of Economy

Cyprus: CITEA

Denmark: DI Digital, IT BRANCHEN, Dansk Erhverv

Estonia: ITL

Finland: TIF

France: AFNUM, Syntec Numérique, Tech in France

Germany: BITKOM, ZVEI

Greece: SEPE

Hungary: IVSZ

Ireland: Technology Ireland

Italy: Anitec-Assinform

Lithuania: INFOBALT

Luxembourg: APSI

Netherlands: NLdigital, FIAR

Norway: Abelia

Poland: KIGEIT, PIIT, ZIPSEE

Portugal: AGEFE

Romania: ANIS, APDETIC

Slovakia: ITAS

Slovenia: GZS

Spain: AMETIC

Sweden: Teknikföretagen, IT&Telekomföretagen

Switzerland: SWICO

Turkey: Digital Turkey Platform, ECID

Ukraine: IT UKRAINE

United Kingdom: techUK