



Joint Statement on Promoting the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement

November 2013

**EURATEX-European Apparel and Textile Confederation
Japan Textile Federation**

Ahead of the EU- Japan Summit in November, on behalf of the Textile and Clothing (T&C) industry in Europe and Japan, EURATEX and Japan Textile Federation (JTF) jointly call strongly on European Union (EU) and Japanese leaders to expedite negotiations for the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

The T&C industry is a growing industry on worldwide basis. Operating in a very competitive environment, the EU and Japan are still taking leading roles in developing high technology and quality of fibers and fabrics as well as in creating high value added apparels and fashion.

Both the EU and Japan are key export markets for the respective T&C Industry. In the case of the EU T&C Industry, Japan is the 7th Export market reaching almost 1.9 bill.€,194bill. ¥ and the 5th Export market for EU Clothing exports. For the Japanese T&C Industry, the EU is the 2nd Export market reaching almost 66 bill.¥, 0.7 bill.€.

The trade structure of T&C between the EU and Japan is complementary. Under those circumstances, EPA would expand the trade and investment in T&C between the two parties and promote further business development. At the same time, EPA would build platforms in various types of R&D cooperation in the T&C area, thereby creating new innovations and business opportunities.

However for this positive outcome to become reality, Euratex and JTF consider to be essential that the agreement foresees:

- Duty free access from day one for all Textile and Clothing products with full reciprocity and no exceptions;



- Ensure that double transformation (two steps rule) is the basis for the Rules of Origin
- Harmonisation and compliance with International Standards in the regulatory area (e.g. Labelling);

The EU Industry considers also essential that the Agreement contains enhanced provisions in what concerns access to Public Procurement markets, transparency in Retail and protection of Textile Designs. The Japanese Industry is currently assessing these provisions and both Euratex and JTF are considering issuing a more detailed common statement at a later stage.

We hope that both the negotiators from the EU and Japanese side take these points in full consideration and arrive at an agreement that is ambitious and forward-looking, leading to the creation of an environment that is conducive to business in the T&C sector in the EU and Japan.

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