



Press Release
報道資料



For Immediate Release

**ACCJ and EBC express concern over Postal Services Privatization
Committee revised guidelines:**

***"Ensure a level playing field before considering whether Japan Post should
be allowed to offer new or modified products or services"***

September 21, 2012 - The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) and European Business Council (EBC) have urged revision of the Postal Services Privatization Committee's guidelines for the consideration of new Japan Post business ("the guidelines") to ensure that Japan Post is not allowed to expand its business operations until equivalent conditions of competition have been established. This position is consistent with the stance of the Life Insurance Association of Japan and is in line with Japan's international trade commitments.

In light of the ACCJ and EBC's long-standing and clear position with regard to Japan Post, the associations are disappointed that the final guidelines reflected virtually none of the concerns raised by Japanese and foreign-owned insurance industry that the draft guidelines could harm the insurance sector and ultimately consumers.

In this context, the ACCJ and EBC strongly urge revision of the guidelines in line with Japan's international trade commitments under the World Trade Organization's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) to ensure a level playing field exists between the Japan Post financial entities and private-sector companies BEFORE considering whether Japan Post Bank and Japan Post Insurance should be allowed to offer new or modified products or services.

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About the ACCJ

The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) was established in 1948 by representatives of 40 American companies and has grown into one of the most influential business organizations in Japan. Consisting mainly of executives from American companies, the ACCJ has members representing over 1,000 companies with offices in Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka. Working closely with the governments of the United States and Japan and other business organizations, the ACCJ promotes trade and investment flows between the United States and Japan, promoting the interests of U.S. companies and members, and improving the environment for international business in Japan. Over 60 committees representing various industries play a central role in making ACCJ policy recommendations by issuing Viewpoints, Public Comments and White Papers and holding over 500 events and seminars annually on public policy and economic trends. The ACCJ also undertakes charitable efforts and supports its members' CSR activities.

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About EBC

The European Business Council in Japan (EBC)/European (EU) Chamber of Commerce in Japan is the trade policy and advocacy arm of 17 European national chambers of commerce and business associations in Japan. Established in 1972, the EBC works to improve the business and investment environment in Japan. It currently represents more than 3,000 local European companies and individuals, some 400 of whom participate directly in the EBC's 30 sector-based committees.

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