

## **EBC and Keidanren united for the recognition of vaccination certificate**

The European Business Council in Japan (EBC) fully supports the recent statement by the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren).

The EBC too believes that vaccinated people should be exempted from quarantine. We believe this would still be safe under the current health protocols as returnees are tested once before departing to Japan and again when entering Japan.

The EBC has for a long time advocated for a more streamlined process to allow foreign essential workers, such as new CEOs and specialists, to enter Japan. Currently they are only allowed to enter under special circumstances leading to uncertainty and delays in important business decisions.

We would also like to underline that Japanese customers and partners are also suffering as foreign experts are unable to enter Japan and fulfil the required installations of machinery or logistics systems.

Since the end of March/beginning of April 2020, new non-Japanese businesspeople have not been able to enter Japan, except for a short period between October 2020 and beginning of January 2021.

Just as the Keidanren, the EBC asks that the Government of Japan immediately makes it easier for European industry to make use of experience and expertise from overseas. The EBC is aware of several cases of companies trying to bring in personnel from Europe and other countries.

The EBC believes that by using the EU Digital COVID Certificate, companies should be able to bring in personnel to Japan. We would like to point out that they should also benefit from any quarantine exemptions granted to Japanese residents.