

18 February, 2022

Press release

The EBC welcomes the announcement on the entry restrictions, but asks for further details

Prime Minister Kishida in his speech on the evening of 17 February announced that Japan will, among other things, open up its border for businesspeople. As the European Business Council in Japan (EBC) has long advocated for this, the announcement is very welcomed and the EBC supports the direction announced.

European companies are currently suffering under the entry restriction since they cannot bring in new essential personnel to Japan. This applies both to new top management as well as specialists. These people are absolutely necessary, not only for the European companies in Japan themselves, but also in order to be able to support the Japanese industry.

However, as the announcement did not offer any details on how essential personnel will be able to enter Japan including where to apply, and also, whether there will be any restrictions on what kind of businessperson will be granted a visa, the EBC requests that the Government as soon as possible publishes detailed information that will answer these questions. It is only then we will know whether the amendments will offer a solution to the problem.

The same is also true for the changes to the quarantine related issues. Clarity regarding vaccination status recognised by Japan will be important, especially for persons that are vaccinated overseas.

The EBC also calls for swift increase or even lifting of the daily limitation of entries, currently set to 5,000. We do understand the underlying health concerns, but we are at the same time convinced that Japanese authorities are competent enough to provide a good health protocol.

Again, the EBC welcomes the announcements and looks forward to more detailed information. Furthermore, the whole European business community stands ready to offer its support.