FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

European Business Council Welcomes Reforms to Foreign Lawyer Registration Rules in Japan

Tokyo, Japan – September 13, 2024 – The European Business Council (EBC) is pleased to announce its strong support for the recent reforms to Japan's rules governing the registration of foreign lawyers. These updates, particularly the simplification of paperwork required for re-registration of foreign lawyers who have temporarily left Japan, reflect initiatives long advocated by the EBC and its Legal Services Committee.

"These changes represent a significant step forward in making Japan an even more attractive market, not only for foreign and domestic law firms but also for businesses that rely on the specialized services provided by foreign-registered lawyers," said Tony Andriotis, Chair of the EBC Legal Services Committee.

The EBC acknowledges the ongoing discussions among various bar associations across Japan and stands ready to assist the Ministry of Justice in conveying the importance of these changes and collaborating further. The EBC is honored to have contributed to this positive development and is committed to deepening its relationship with the Ministry of Justice.

"We are delighted to see that the Ministry of Justice has implemented a practical solution that will benefit both the legal community and the broader business environment in Japan. The EBC looks forward to being involved in future deliberations on amendments to the Foreign Lawyer's Act," added Andriotis.

The EBC Legal Services Committee, which includes lawyers qualified in several European jurisdictions as well as in the United States, Hong Kong, Australia, and Japan, is uniquely positioned to offer insights on the regulation of foreign lawyers in Japan from both Japanese and international perspectives.

The EBC is committed to contributing to Japan's continued success and growth as a leading global stakeholder in legal services.

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