

27 May 2015

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Prime Minister of Japan

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President
Japanese Trade Union Confederation (JTUC-RENGO)

Letter of Request concerning the Japan-EU Summit

We have heard that one of the main themes to be discussed at the 23rd Japan-EU Summit, to be held on 29 May 2015, is the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), for which negotiations are currently proceeding between the two parties.

RENGO believes that economic partnership is one of the vital policies for placing the Japanese economy on a sustainable and stable growth trajectory and for bringing about employment creation and security. At the same time, we also believe that all of the EPAs and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) concluded by Japan should serve as opportunities for the construction of just rules in the international trading system.

We therefore request that the following points be borne in mind in the Japan-EU Summit deliberations in order to ensure that the Japan-EU EPA contributes to improvements in working conditions and a rise in the quality of life for the working people of both Japan and the EU:

1. Carry out appropriate measures to secure proactive disclosure and transparency of relevant information, in particular to social partners and other stakeholders, as well as measures to build a national consensus;
2. Incorporate provisions for compliance with labour standards, such as the core labour standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO), and provisions for the protection of the environment; and
3. Desist from engaging in facile reviews of standards in nontariff measures (including measures on vehicle safety, food safety, processed foods, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals) in order to ensure that the foundation of the safe and reliable society will not be compromised.