

Concerning the Smooth and Mutual Transfer of Personal Data  
Between Japan and the European Union

4 July 2017

The Personal Information Protection Commission

The Personal Information Protection Commission (PPC) has since last year been engaging in successive dialogues with the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers of the European Commission with a view to establishing a framework based on the foundation of the Act on the Protection of the Personal Information (APPI) to pursue the smooth and mutual transfer of personal data between Japan and the European Union (EU), in the course of which the respective personal data protection systems have been understood progressively.

Haruhi Kumazawa, Commissioner of the PPC on 3 July 2017 held a meeting with Věra Jourová, European Commissioner for Justice and Consumers, in which concrete measures to be taken have been affirmed toward establishing the aforesaid framework to pursue the smooth and mutual transfer of personal data between Japan and the EU.

The PPC will, based on the above meeting outcome, initiate a procedure as soon as appropriate to amend its commission rules in accordance with the PPC-adopted 16 June 2017 decision titled “Concerning the Future Direction of Commission Rules under Article 24 of the Act on the Protection of the Personal Information” with a view to a possibility of designating EU member states under the APPI Article 24 within a targeted time frame of early 2018 in consonance with the European Commission’s work progress relating to an adequacy decision on Japan.

The PPC also will, in relation to the individual EU member states, continue not only to collect information and undertake research of the EU personal information protection system as a whole but also energetically hold dialogues with the individual EU member states’ data protection authorities, having regard to the necessity to verify their compliance and enforcement status of the system as well as future possibilities of their establishing and maintaining robust mutual understanding, collaboration and cooperation with the PPC.