

Joint Statement by Haruhi Kumazawa, Commissioner of the Personal  
Information Protection Commission of Japan and Věra Jourová,  
Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality of the European  
Commission

Tokyo, 17 July 2018

Commissioner Haruhi Kumazawa and Commissioner Věra Jourová today successfully concluded discussions to recognise each other's personal data protection systems as equivalent. The mutual adequacy finding will create the world's largest area of safe data transfers based on a high level of protection of personal data.

This decision will complement and enhance the benefits of the Economic Partnership Agreement and contribute to the strategic partnership between Japan and the EU.

With this agreement, they reaffirm their commitment to shared values concerning the protection of personal data, and to strengthen their cooperation and demonstrate their leadership, in shaping global standards based on a high level of protection of personal data.

The citizens of Japan and the EU will benefit from strong protection of their personal data while companies will benefit from the unhindered safe and free data transfers to each other's economies.

The adequacy dialogue confirmed the mutual understanding of measures based on the Japanese Act on the Protection of Personal Information (APPI) and the role of the independent personal data protection authority, the Personal Information Protection Commission (PPC), and measures based on the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and its governance structure.

They commit to complete by autumn 2018 their relevant internal procedures required for this framework for mutual and smooth data transfers between Japan and the EU to become operational.