

**EU-Japan Business Dialogue Round Table**  
**Tokyo Meeting 17-18 July, 2000**  
**Working Party "Mutual Recognition Agreement"**  
**Joint Position Paper**

**1. Common understanding on MRA**

We believe that the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) will simplify international trade related procedures and that we, therefore, should strive for the MRA to be applied to more categories and with more countries. We are also convinced that the MRA is a first step towards achieving international standardisation – the ultimate goal of which is ‘approved once and accepted anywhere’.

**2. The current MRA between the EU and Japan (four sectors)**

The European Commission and the government of Japan are currently trying to come to an agreement on the MRA concerning four sectors – electrical equipment, telecom equipment, pharmaceuticals (GMP) and chemicals (GLP). However, the negotiations have been put on hold for some time due to a legal difficulty within Japan. Japanese industries are strongly encouraging their government to resolve the legal issue and to sign the MRA as quickly as possible.

**3. MRA on medical devices between the EU and Japan**

- This issue was picked up at the last year’s first EJBDRT.
  - Both of the EU and Japanese industrial associations are supporting this issue.
- A) *Take the MRA between the EU and the USA as an example:*
- We would like to hear a brief explanation from the European leader of the MRA Work Party about the current situation of the MRA on medical devices between the EU and the USA, including its characteristics and the outcome of the three-year preparatory period.
- B) *Clarify the challenges through an study for implementation:*
- The study will be covered the whole process, from manufacturing to sale/service, and identify the points to be improved on either side.
  - The study can be carried out by industrial associations, such as COCIR and JIRA.
- C) *Request the each government to start the negotiation on MRA on medical devices:*
- The each industrial association will submit a requesting letter to its government.

We have discussed the MRA between the EU and Japan in the four sectors and medical devices, and will follow up these points until a concrete outcome is reached. At the same time, we will seek, in the future, a suitable approach towards the promotion of an international standardised system after the MRA.