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EU eliminates import duties on flat panel displays

Japan Electronics & Information Technology Industries Association

JEITA welcomes that on September 27, the EU has adopted a new EU Council Regulation which allows flat panel displays, including digital signage, to receive a duty free treatment.

In September 2010, the WTO dispute resolution panel decided that certain IT products such as flat panel displays should receive duty free treatment required the WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA). However the EU continued to impose illegal duties on flat panel displays, including digital signage.

Japan has just been going to assert to abolish the treatment. Japanese government has tenaciously negotiated with EU. We appreciate the efforts of the Japanese government, which won the complete victory.

We expect that the significant growth of trade of the products in the future, and that it will contribute to improvement in people's convenience.

In order to ensure the further effect of the ITA, JEITA hopes the swift and successful conclusion of the negotiations of ITA expansion of product coverage which are currently undergoing in Geneva, and expect that it will improve myriad conveniences in our daily lives, and spur growth and innovation in the global economy.

(Information)

The Information Technology Agreement (ITA) was signed in the process of acceding to the WTO in December 1996. It was the first one to fully liberalize trade in a specific sector. The main product categories covered by the ITA include: computers, semiconductors, semiconductor manufacturing equipment, telecommunication apparatus, instruments and apparatus, data-storage media and software, and parts and accessories.

In September 2010, the WTO dispute resolution panel decided that certain IT products should receive duty free treatment required the WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA). IT products at issue are 1) multi-function machines, 2) PC monitors with DVI port (flat panel displays), 3)set top box.