

**Joint press release by Minister Hiroshige Seko and Minister Bruno Le Maire.**

M. Bruno Le Maire, Minister for the Economy and Finance of France, and M. Hiroshige Seko, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, met on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 in Paris.

They discussed a number of issues of mutual interest including the candidacy of Japan to host the “World Expo 2025” in Osaka under the theme “Designing Future Society for Our Lives” which has many assets.

On the issue of the Alliance formed between Renault and Nissan, both Ministers exchanged views and shared information about the latest situation. They reaffirmed what they had previously said on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in a joint press release, i.e. the strong support of both the French and Japanese governments to the Alliance formed between Renault and Nissan and their shared wish to maintain this winning cooperation.

The Ministers also agreed on the importance of achieving an effective and speedy reform of the World Trade Organisation. In this context, Minister Seko and Minister Le Maire agreed that they would use the forthcoming presidencies of Japan and France, respectively of the G20 and G7 in 2019, to continue discussions in this area.

The Ministers agreed to stay in close touch on all the above issues.