Article 26
Spontaneous exchange of information

1. Japan and Member States may, without prior request, provide information relating to criminal matters to each other to the extent permitted by the laws of the providing State.

2. The providing State may impose conditions on the use of such information by the receiving State. In such a case, the providing State shall give prior notice to the receiving State of the nature of the information to be provided and of the conditions to be imposed. The receiving State shall be bound by those conditions if it agrees to them.

Article 27
Relation to other instruments

1. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent any State from requesting assistance or providing assistance in accordance with other applicable international agreements, or pursuant to its laws that may be applicable.

2. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent Japan and a Member State from concluding international agreements confirming, supplementing, extending or amplifying the provisions thereof.

Article 28
Consultations

1. The Central Authorities of Japan and the Member States shall, if necessary, hold consultations for the purpose of resolving any difficulties with regard to the execution of a request, and facilitating speedy and effective assistance under this Agreement, and may decide on such measures as may be necessary for this purpose.

2. The Contracting Parties shall, as appropriate, hold consultations on any matter that may arise in the interpretation or application of this Agreement.

Article 29
Territorial application

1. This Agreement shall apply to the territory of Japan and, in relation to the European Union, to:

(a) the territories of the Member States; and

(b) territories for whose external relations a Member State has responsibility, or countries that are not Member States for whom a Member State has other duties with respect to external relations, where agreed upon by an exchange of diplomatic notes between the Contracting Parties, duly confirmed by the relevant Member State.

2. The application of this Agreement to any territory or country in respect of which extension has been made in accordance with paragraph 1(b) may be terminated by either Contracting Party giving six months' written notice to the other Contracting Party through the diplomatic channel, where duly confirmed between Japan and the relevant Member State.

Article 30
Status of annexes

Annexes to this Agreement form an integral part of this Agreement. Annexes I, II and III may be modified by mutual consent in writing of the Contracting Parties without amendment of this Agreement.

Article 31
Entry into force and termination

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date on which the Contracting Parties exchange diplomatic notes informing each other that their respective internal procedures necessary to give effect to this Agreement have been completed.

2. This Agreement shall apply to any request for assistance presented on or after the date upon which this Agreement enters into force, whether the acts relevant to the request were committed before, on or after that date.

3. Either Contracting Party may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving written notice to the other Contracting Party, and such termination shall be effective six months after the date of such notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement.