



*Mr Lim Hng Kiang, Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister*

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### **EU, Singapore 'pleased with progress in FTA talks'**

OFFICIALS from Singapore and the European Union say they are pleased with the progress made in negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA).

Mr Lim Hng Kiang (photo), Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister, met European Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht here yesterday to take stock of the talks.

The discussions focused on improving market access for goods and service providers, as well as on strengthening trade regulations in areas such as intellectual property protection and rules of origin governing products marketed.

'Both were pleased with the good progress of the negotiations so far and agreed to intensify work on the outstanding issues,' the official agencies said in a joint statement.

Seven rounds of negotiations have been held since March last year. The talks are expected to be completed later this year and an agreement reached, the agencies added.