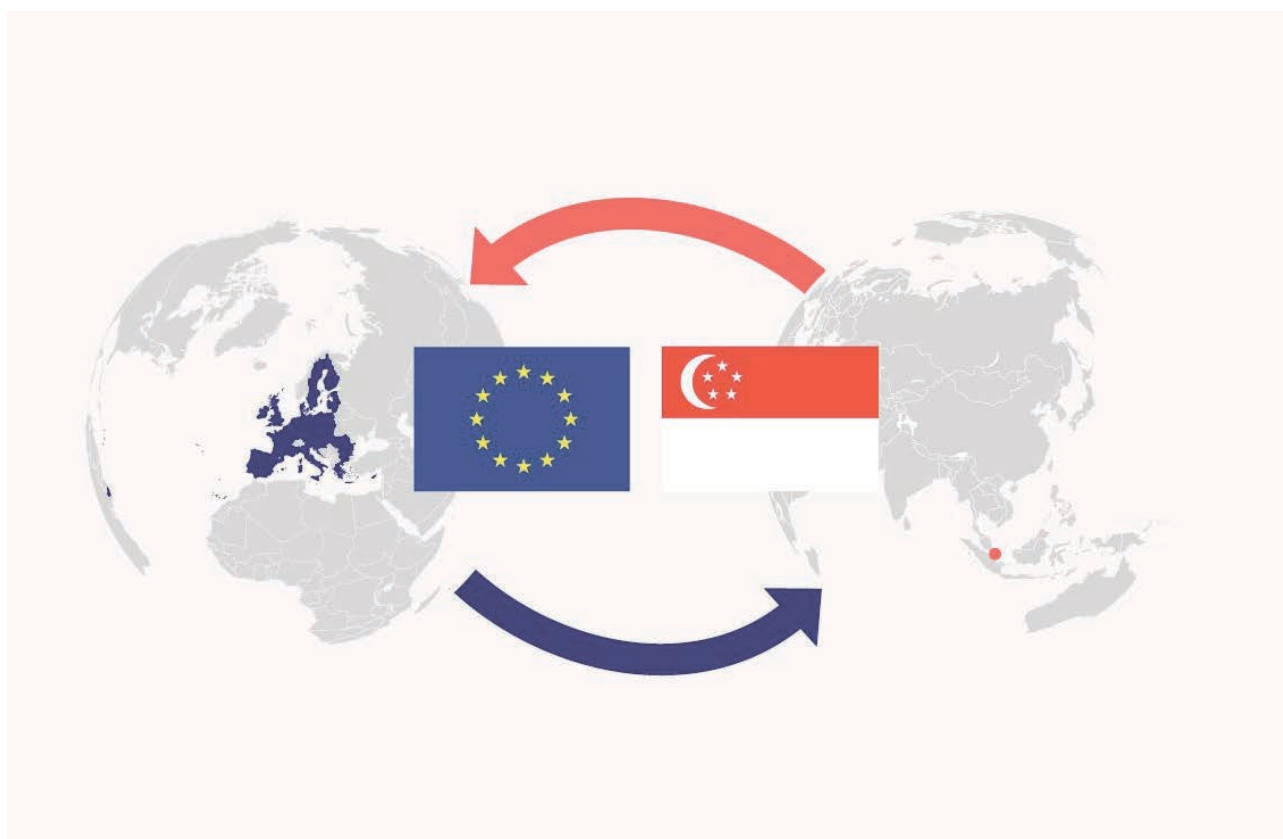


EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO SINGAPORE

Media Report

EUSG Trade EUSFTA

6 August 2020



European Union
Delegation to Singapore

Summary

On Thursday, 6th August 2020, EUDS issued a media release highlighting the positive impact of the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. At a time when the news is dominated by the significant negative impact of COVID-19, the upward trade trajectory - coming just six months after the entry into force of the EUSFTA - generated significant interest in Singapore's mainstream media.

The news received prominent coverage in the region's leading daily, The Straits Times. EU Ambassador to Singapore Barbara Plinkert did two exclusive full-length interviews with leading television network, Channel NewsAsia and radio network Money FM89.3. Expectedly, the story got exhaustive traction on social media as well.

This report documents the highlights.



THURSDAY AUGUST 6, 2020

SINCE 1845

THE STRAITS TIMES

EU imports from Singapore up 12% in 6-month period after FTA came into effect



The EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement came into force on Nov 21, 2019. ST PHOTO: LIM YAOHUI

🕒 PUBLISHED AUG 6, 2020, 4:04 PM SGT



European Union
Delegation to Singapore

The Article

Choo Yun Ting (mailto:yuntingc@sph.com.sg)

SINGAPORE - Despite the impact of Covid-19 on global trade, European Union (EU) imports from Singapore saw a 12 per cent increase in the first six months since the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) came into force.

The EU Delegation to Singapore said in a statement on Thursday (Aug 6) that this increase contrasts with total EU imports, which fell by 10.6 per cent in the same period of December 2019 to May 2020.

EU merchandise imports from Singapore amounted to 9.7 billion euros (\$15.8 billion) during the six-month period, with organic chemicals and pharmaceutical products being the two main product categories imported into the EU from the Republic.

However, EU exports to Singapore decreased by 16 per cent to 12.5 billion euros from December 2019 to May 2020, compared with the same period a year ago, because of the negative effect of Covid-19 on the trade in goods.

The EUSFTA came into effect on Nov 21, 2019.

The EU removed 84 per cent of all its tariffs for goods originating in Singapore, with additional tariff reductions for the remaining 16 per cent, while Singapore eliminated the last remaining tariffs for alcoholic beverages originating in the EU.

Beer exports from the region to Singapore grew by 20 per cent since the free trade agreement kicked in, the statement noted.

EU Ambassador to Singapore Barbara Plinkert said that the expansion of imports in EU from Singapore demonstrates "a clear evidence of the benefits of the EUSFTA on tariff reduction and elimination for Singapore exports to the EU, despite the challenging conditions for international trade and supply chains since the outbreak of the current pandemic".

She encouraged companies, and especially small and medium-sized enterprises, to further tap the benefits of the agreement.

The statement from the EU Delegation to Singapore noted that the Republic has yet to make use of the annual quota for goods with specialised rules of origin stipulated in the EUSFTA.

Singapore has not yet exported any Asian food products, such as sambal ikan bilis, samosas or dumplings, to the EU by using the 1,250 tonnes annual quota since the agreement came into effect.

Under the EUSFTA, Singaporean and EU companies are provided preferential access for trade in goods, services and public procurement in each other's markets.

The agreement also includes provisions on customs, trade facilitation and intellectual property protection, while eliminating trade barriers and strengthening commitments on sustainable development through the protection of labour rights and the environment.



FRIDAY AUGUST 7, 2020

SINCE 1845

THE STRAITS TIMES

EU imports from S'pore up 12% despite pandemic

🕒 PUBLISHED AUG 7, 2020, 5:00 AM SGT

Despite the impact of Covid-19 on global trade, European Union imports from Singapore saw a 12 per cent increase in the first six months since the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) came into force.

The EU delegation to Singapore said in a statement yesterday that this increase contrasts with total EU imports, which fell by 10.6 per cent in the same period of December to May.

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However, EU exports to Singapore decreased by 16 per cent to €12.5 billion from December to May, compared with the same period a year ago, owing to the negative effect of Covid-19 on the trade in goods.

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alcoholic beverages originating in the EU.

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EU Ambassador to Singapore Barbara Plinkert said the expansion of imports in EU from Singapore demonstrates "a clear evidence of the benefits of the EUSFTA on tariff reduction and elimination for Singapore exports to the EU, despite the challenging conditions for international trade and supply chains since the outbreak of the current pandemic".

She encouraged companies, and especially small and medium-sized enterprises, to further tap the benefits of the agreement.

The EU delegation to Singapore statement also noted that Singapore has yet to make use of the annual quota for goods with specialised rules of origin stipulated in the EUSFTA.

The Republic has not yet exported any Asian food products, such as sambal ikan bilis, samosas and dumplings, to the EU by using the annual quota of 1,250 tonnes since the agreement came into effect.

Choo Yun Ting



CNA Interview

European Union Delegation to
Singapore | 06



EU imports from Singapore up 12% in first six months of free trade deal

683 views • Aug 6, 2020

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CNA
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European Union
Delegation to Singapore

Radio Interview

European Union Delegation to
Singapore | 07



Singapore's leading business radio network Money FM89.3 did a 13-minute interview with Ambassador Plinkert



Barbara Plinkert, European Union Ambassador To
Singapore



PRIME TIME
THURSDAY | 13 AUGUST | 6:15PM

BARBARA PLINKERT
European Union Ambassador to Singapore



13 August 2020

In the Spotlight: Exports from Singapore to the EU on the rise

Despite the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on international trade flows, EU imports from Singapore have been on the rise.

The increase of imports from Singapore has been particularly significant for organic chemicals and pharmaceutical products, the two main product categories imported into the EU from Singapore.



European Union
Delegation to Singapore

Key Social Media Highlights

European Union Delegation to
Singapore | 08



Barbara Plinkert ✓
@BPlinkertEU

When it comes to recovery from the impact of COVID-19, the emphasis has to be on [#GreenRecovery](#). We have to build back better, together. Huge potential for even more collaboration between the EU, Singapore and ASEAN. [@EUinSingapore](#) [@EUinASEAN](#)

EU in Singapore @EUinSingapore · Aug 6

Within 6 months of entry into force, the many positive impacts of   Free Trade Agreement highlighted in this wide-ranging @CNA interview. In these testing #Covid_19 times EU Ambassador to  @BPlinkertEU addresses the challenges & potential of an ever-deepening partnership #EUSG



6:48 PM · Aug 6, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

7 Retweets 17 Likes



EU in Singapore
@EUinSingapore

EU imports from Singapore up 12% in 6-month period after FTA came into effect.

This evening Ambassador [@BPlinkertEU](#) speaks of the story behind the stats in an exclusive conversation with Rachel Kelly. Tune in @6:15pm: [moneyfm893.sg](#) [@official_sph](#) [@moneyfm893](#) [@STcom](#) #FTA



MONEY FM 89.3 - Singapore's First Business and Personal Finance Radio S...
[moneyfm893.sg](#)

1:18pm · 13 Aug 2020 · Twitter Web App

2 Retweets 7 Likes



European Union
Delegation to Singapore

Key Social Media Highlights

European Union Delegation to
Singapore | 09



EU in Singapore
@EUinSingapore

Despite effects of Covid-19 pandemic on international trade flows, EU imports from SG increase by 12% in first 6 months of entry #EUSFTA.

EU Ambassador to Singapore @BPlinkertEU calls expansion of imports "clear evidence of benefits of the EUSFTA." More:



Positive news for EU imports from Singapore
EEAS - European External Action Service - European Union
External Action
eeas.europa.eu

12:29 PM · Aug 6, 2020 · Twitter Web App

3 Retweets and comments 7 Likes



EU in Singapore
@EUinSingapore

Last week, In the Spotlight with @moneyfm893 Ambassador to @BPlinkertEU: Exports from Singapore to the EU on the rise. "We see early signs of a very positive effect of application of FTA." moneyfm893.com/shows/money-fm... @eu_eas @MTI_Sg @Trade_EU @BrusselsMti #EUSFTA



In the Spotlight: Exports from Singapore to the EU on the ...
moneyfm893.com

9:51am · 17 Aug 2020 · Twitter Web App

1 Retweet 1 Like



Deepika Shetty
@deepikashetty13

Despite challenging conditions, clear "evidence of benefits of #EUSFTA on tariff reduction" & elimination for exports to says @BPlinkertEU EU imports from Singapore up 12% in 6-month period after FTA came into effect str.sg/JnaW @STcom reports. @EUinSingapore



EU imports from Singapore up 12% in 6-month period after FTA came into effect
Business News - SINGAPORE - Despite the impact of Covid-19 on global trade, European Union (EU) imports from Singapore saw a 12 per cent increase in the ...
[straitstimes.com](https://www.straitstimes.com)

5:35 AM · Aug 7, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

2 Likes



European Union
Delegation to Singapore

Key Social Media Highlights

European Union Delegation to
Singapore | 10



Deepika Shetty
@deepikashetty13

In these extremely challenging #COVID_19 times 🇪🇺 Ambassador to 🇸🇬 @BPlinkertEU speaks of the potential of an ever-deepening partnership, strengthening people to people connectivity & EU-ASEAN ties. Always grateful for your support @ChannelNewsAsia @EUinSingapore #EUSG 🇪🇺 🇸🇬



5:40 PM · Aug 6, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

3 Retweets 9 Likes



Deepika Shetty
@deepikashetty13

This evening...
In an exclusive conversation with Rachel Kelly @moneyfm893 🇪🇺 Ambassador to 🇸🇬 @BPlinkertEU talks trade, people-to-people connectivity & @EUinSingapore next public diplomacy initiative Study In Europe. Tune in:



1:57 PM · Aug 13, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

2 Retweets 6 Likes



Jean Pierre De Meerleer Sánchez
@JeanpDMS

Live on air 📺 @ChannelNewsAsia EU Ambassador 🇪🇺 @BPlinkertEU makes a strong call for #open & #free trade to keep #supplychains open amidst the current pandemic! The #EU & Singapore are like-minded partners affirming the importance for a multilateral rules-based order 🇪🇺 🇸🇬 #EUSFTA



5:33 PM · Aug 6, 2020 · Twitter Web App

2 Retweets 5 Likes



The Straits Times
@STcom

EU imports from Singapore up 12% in 6-month period after FTA came into effect
[straitstimes.com/business/eu-im...](https://www.straitstimes.com/business/eu-im...)



EU imports from Singapore up 12% in 6-month period after FTA came into effect
[straitstimes.com](https://www.straitstimes.com)

4:23pm · 6 Aug 2020 · Echobox

4 Retweets 1 Like



European Union
Delegation to Singapore

Key Social Media Highlights

European Union Delegation to
Singapore | 11



European Union in Singapore

Published by EUdel Sing [?] · 7 August ·

Despite challenging conditions & uncertainties caused by the global pandemic, EU imports from Singapore up 12% in 6-month period after FTA came into effect.

The increase of imports from Singapore has been particularly significant for organic chemicals and pharmaceutical products, the two main product categories imported into the EU from the city-state, which expanded by 65% and 23% respectively.

European Union Ambassador to Singapore Barbara Plinkert calls the expansion of ... [See more](#)



STRAITSTIMES.COM

EU imports from Singapore up 12% in 6-month period after FTA came into effect

809
People reached

75
Engagements

Boost post



15

2 shares



European Union in Singapore

Published by EUdel Sing [?] · 1d ·

EU-SG Trade Flows.

People-to-people connectivity.

Going digital in COVID-19 times.

Last week In the Spotlight with Rachel Kelly @moneyfm893 European Union Ambassador to Singapore Barbara Plinkert says: "We see early signs of a very positive effect of application of FTA."

Exports from Singapore to the EU on the rise <https://omny.fm/.../in-the-spotlight-exports-from-singapore-t...> ... [See more](#)



OMNY.FM

In the Spotlight: Exports from Singapore to the EU on the rise - MONEY FM 89.3 - Omny.fm

190
People reached

15
Engagements

Boost post



6

1 share

EU imports from Singapore up 12% in 6-month period after FTA came into effect



euinsingapore • Following



euinsingapore Despite challenging conditions & uncertainties caused by the global pandemic, EU imports from Singapore up 12% in 6-month period after FTA came into effect <https://str.sg/jnaW>
The Straits Times reports.
@BPlinkertEU @MTI_Sg @Trade_EU #EUSFTA #EUSGeusg

1w



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AUGUST 7

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Post



European Union
Delegation to Singapore

EU imports from Singapore increased by 12% in the first six months of entry into force of the EUSFTA despite Covid-19

EU imports from Singapore increased by 12% in the first six months of the entry into force of the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA), despite the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on international trade flows.

This positive figure is in sharp contrast with total EU imports, which fell by 10.6% in the period between December 2019 and May 2020. EU merchandise imports from Singapore recorded a total amount of €9.7 billion, while EU exports to Singapore reached €12.5 billion.

The increase of imports from Singapore has been particularly significant for organic chemicals and pharmaceutical products, the two main product categories imported into the EU from the city-state, which expanded by 65% and 23% respectively. EU exports to Singapore decreased by 16% compared to the same period a year earlier, as a result of the negative effects of Covid-19 on trade in goods.

European Union Ambassador to Singapore Barbara Plinkert calls the expansion of imports from Singapore “a clear evidence of the benefits of the EUSFTA on tariff reduction and elimination for Singapore exports to the EU, despite the challenging conditions for international trade and supply chains since the outbreak of the current pandemic.”



Media Release

Since 21 November 2019, the EU removed 84% of all its tariffs for goods originating in Singapore, with additional tariff reductions for the remaining 16%. Conversely, Singapore eliminated the last remaining tariffs for alcoholic beverages originating in the EU. In fact, EU beer exports from the EU to Singapore grew by 20% since the entry into force of the EUSFTA.

In addition to the early positive effects of the EUSFTA, EU Ambassador Plinkert encourages companies, and specially SMEs, to “further tap into the benefits of this comprehensive agreement”. For instance, Singapore has not yet exported any of the Asian food products, such as sambal ikan bilis, samosas or dumplings, by using the annual quota of 1,250 tonnes with specialised rules of origin, to the EU, since the entry into force of the EUSFTA.

The landmark EU-Singapore FTA entered into force on 21 November 2019 and provides Singaporean and EU companies preferential access for trade in goods, services and public procurement in each other markets. It contains important provisions on customs, trade facilitation, intellectual property protection, while eliminating trade barriers and strengthening commitments on sustainable development through the protection of labour rights and the environment.

In addition, on 1 August 2020, the EU-Vietnam FTA entered into force, further deepening economic and trade relations between the EU and the ASEAN region.

On a yearly basis, EU-Singapore trade in goods reached €47 billion in 2019. According to the latest figures available, EU-Singapore trade in services totalled €52.9 billion in 2018 and EU FDI stocks held in Singapore reached €191 billion at the end of 2018.



Media Release

Key Statistics

EU Imports from Singapore by main product categories (values in euros)					
	Main Product categories (HS-2)	Dec 2018 - May 2019	Dec 2019 - May 2020	Share total (^{'19-'20})	Change
1	Organic chemicals	1,380,385,521	2,281,646,669	23.58%	65.29%
2	Pharmaceutical Products	1,717,839,398	2,110,759,273	21.82%	22.87%
3	Instruments and apparatus for various uses	1,034,479,205	1,153,822,232	11.93%	11.54%
4	Electrical machinery and equipment	1,111,374,543	980,383,738	10.13%	-11.79%
5	Machinery and mechanical appliances	1,352,834,987	867,651,986	8.97%	-35.86%
	Subtotal	6,596,913,654	7,394,263,898	76.43%	-22.50%
	Other products	2,036,997,288	2,280,328,924	23.57%	123.96%
	Total	8,633,910,942	9,674,592,822	100.00%	12.05%

EU Exports to Singapore by main product categories (values in euros)					
	Main Product categories (HS-2)	Dec 2018 - May 2019	Dec 2019 - May 2020	Share total (^{'19-'20})	Change
1	Machinery and mechanical appliances	2,542,489,791	2,405,021,861	19.23%	-5.41%
2	Electrical machinery and equipment	1,890,525,112	1,854,025,947	14.83%	-1.93%
3	Aircraft and parts thereof	1,402,087,729	855,255,766	6.84%	-39.00%
4	Instruments and apparatus for various uses	877,055,776	778,691,634	6.23%	-11.22%
5	Mineral fuels and oils	1,670,536,479	766,479,094	6.13%	-54.12%
	Subtotal	8,382,694,887	6,659,474,302	53.26%	-49.25%
	Other products	6,576,018,577	5,844,867,066	46.74%	25.45%
	Total	14,958,713,464	12,504,341,368	100.00%	-16.41%

Source: Eurostat (as of 4 August 2020)

Note

The EU data presented in this news item is for the new EU27 aggregate as a reporting entity and includes 27 EU Member States. The United Kingdom left the European Union on 31 January 2020. During the Brexit transition period (1 Feb 2020 to 31 Dec 2020), the United Kingdom is treated functionally as an EU Member State and remains a party to EU international agreements, including the EUSFTA.

The EU27 data reflect the political change in the EU composition, with the UK considered as an extra-EU partner country for the EU27. However, the UK was still part of the internal market during the period covered, meaning that data on the UK were based on statistical concepts applicable to exchanges between EU Member States.



Key Links

European Union Delegation to
Singapore | 15

The Straits Times

- <https://www.straitstimes.com/business/eu-imports-from-singapore-up-12-in-6-month-period-after-fta-came-into-effect>
- <https://www.straitstimes.com/business/eu-imports-from-spore-up-12-despite-pandemic>

Channel News Asia Interview

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtNIYHNwKdM>

Money FM 89.3

- <https://www.moneyfm893.sg/guest/barbara-plinkert-european-union-ambassador-to-singapore/>

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Political, Press & Information Section

European Union in Singapore



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