



European Union
Delegation to Singapore

Media Report

European Parliament Vote on EUSFTA, EUSIPA, ESPCA

13 February 2019

Summary: It was a historic moment for EU-Singapore ties and a strong signal for free, open and rules-based trade as the European Parliament gave its consent to three key European Union (EU)-Singapore agreements with an overwhelming majority. These are the: EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA), Investment Protection Agreement (EUSIPA) and the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (ESPCA).

The trade and investment agreements between the EU and Singapore received the approval of the European Parliament yesterday (**Feb 13, 2019**). The European Parliament has also given the green light to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. This marks an important step towards the entry into force of these agreements, boosting the EU's economic relations and cooperation with Singapore and leading to an increased European presence in the fast-growing, dynamic and rapidly evolving South-east Asian region.

Singapore is by far the EU's largest trading partner in the South-east Asia, with total bilateral trade in goods of over €53 billion and €51 billion-worth of trade in services. Over 10,000 EU companies are established in Singapore and use it as a hub to serve the whole Pacific region. Singapore is also the number one location for European investment in Asia, with investment between the two growing rapidly in recent years: combined bilateral investment stocks reached €344 billion in 2017.

The news about the successful vote has received extensive coverage in Singapore media making it to Page 1 of the country's leading daily The Straits Times. Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has done posts on Twitter and Facebook commending the teams working on it and hoping that this will "lead to an EU-ASEAN FTA and promote cooperation between both regions."

Key Media Highlights

- The Straits Times, 14 February 2019:** Singapore's leading daily published several articles regarding the Parliamentary vote and offered extensive coverage in both online and print versions. The story ran on Page 1 of the newspaper and made it also to the Top of the News in the print edition.

EU votes in favour of landmark FTA with S'pore

The European Parliament has voted in support of a landmark trade deal with Singapore that will remove nearly all Customs duties between the two jurisdictions.

A majority vote in favour of the European Union-Singapore Free

Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) yesterday in France paves the way for the pact to be ratified. When in force, the EUSFTA will eliminate duties on 84 per cent of Singapore exports to the EU.

Two other pacts, including an

Investment Protection Agreement (IPA), received support yesterday as well.

Calling this an important milestone in Singapore's bilateral relations with the EU, Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations S. Iswaran said the EUSFTA and IPA will bring economic benefits to Singapore, in particular its smaller companies.

[SEETOPOFTHENEWSA5](#)

Green light for European Union's FTA with Singapore

Pact will do away with nearly all Customs duties; two more agreements with S'pore get go-ahead

EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement

The EUSFTA is the first bilateral trade agreement concluded and signed between the European Union (EU) and an ASEAN country. The following are some of its benefits.

84 %

Singapore exports that can enter the EU tariff-free once the pact comes into force (Asian food products, electronics, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, processed agricultural products)

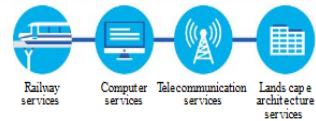
STRONGER PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS:

* Singapore-based producers can collect broadcasting and public performance royalties for productions that are exported into the EU.



GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT:

* Singapore companies can bid for more government procurement projects in the EU, such as in:



LIBERAL AND FLEXIBLE RULES OF ORIGIN:

* Key products originating in Singapore (either produced or processed) can enter the EU tariff-free.

* Materials from ASEAN states will be deemed as originating from Singapore when incorporated into certain final products, enabling such products to qualify for preferential tariff treatment.

IMPROVED MARKET ACCESS TO SERVICES SECTORS:

* Singapore businesses have better market access to a wider range of services sectors in the EU such as:



The Business Times, 14 February 2019:

Singapore's leading business newspaper The Business Times had this story.

European Parliament nod for free trade, partnership pacts with Singapore

Singapore

THE European Parliament has given the green light to a landmark trade agreement with Singapore that is set to remove nearly all customs duties between the two jurisdictions.

Following a majority vote in favour of the European Union-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) on Wednesday, the pact can be ratified and entered into force. Meanwhile, two other agreements were also given the go-ahead.

The EUSFTA eliminates duties on 84 per cent of Singapore exports to the EU once it comes into force, and this includes levies on Asian food products and electronics.

Tariffs on remaining products such as selected meat and seafood produce will be removed in the third to fifth years after the pact has been ratified.

Other benefits include having materials from Asean countries be deemed as originating from Singapore when incorporated into certain final products, enabling these items to qualify for preferential tariff treatment as well.

There are over 10,000 European companies in Singapore and the EU is Singapore's third largest trading partner. Bilateral trade between both parties amounted to about 53 billion euros (\$581 billion) in 2018.

Besides the EUSFTA, two other agreements received majority support on Wednesday but unlike the trade pact, they will need to be approved by regional and national parliaments of all member states before they can enter into force.

One of them is the EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement, which replaces investment treaties that 13 EU countries had in place with Singapore, encourages investments between both parties and sets out rules giving investors protection.

The other is the EU-Singapore Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, which provides a framework to deepen cooperation in key political areas from transport to science and technology.

The EU-Singapore FTA has been

over a decade in the making, with member of the European Parliament David Martin saying in a parliamentary debate on Tuesday that the FTA "sends a message that the EU is committed to a rules-based trading system".

"While (US President) Donald Trump wants to build walls to separate nations, we are . . . keeping fair and free trade alive," said Mr Martin, who is also an EUSFTA rapporteur and has been in charge of drafting and presenting reports on the pact to

The EUSFTA eliminates duties on 84 per cent of Singapore exports to the EU once it comes into force, and this includes levies on Asian food products and electronics.

the European Parliament. "Singapore is a safe harbour for EU trade and investments." The Republic is also a gateway for EU firms to access other major economies such as China and India, said another rapporteur Antonio Lopez-Isturiz White. He added that the trade pact opens new business opportunities as well.

With the EUSFTA being the first bilateral trade agreement signed between the EU and an Asean country, leaders noted it is also a model for future agreements with others in the region.

Some, however, raised concerns during the debate, including those over workers' rights, as Singapore has yet to ratify several conventions of the International Labor Organisation (ILO).

EU trade commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom replied that although it is true that Singapore has yet to ratify three ILO conventions, work is underway to ensure compliance.

The Straits Times, 13 February 2019 – Online Edition:

European Parliament votes 'yes' on free trade, partnership agreements with Singapore



Following a majority vote in favour of the European Union-Singapore Free Trade Agreement on Feb 13, the pact can be ratified and entered into force. PHOTO: SCREENGAB FROM EC.EUROPA.EU

SINGAPORE - The European Parliament has given the green light to a landmark trade agreement with Singapore that is set to remove nearly all customs duties between the two jurisdictions.

Following a majority vote in favour of the European Union-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) on Wednesday (Feb 13) in France, the pact can be ratified and entered into force. Meanwhile, two other agreements were also given the go-ahead.

Calling this an important milestone in Singapore's bilateral relations with the EU, Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations S. Iswaran said in a statement that "Singapore and EU companies, in particular our small- and medium-sized enterprises, can look forward to significant benefits from the reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers".

The agreements are also strategic pathfinders to an eventual EU-Asean trade and investment agreement, he added. He said: "They are a tangible demonstration of the EU and Singapore's shared commitment to open and rules-based trade and will anchor the EU's presence in Asean."

Mr Iswaran added that Singapore looks forward to when the agreements enter into force, as this will "benefit EU citizens and Singaporeans by creating good jobs and new opportunities".

The EUSFTA eliminates duties, allowing 84 per cent of Singapore exports to enter the EU duty-free once it comes into force. This includes that on Asian food products and electronics.

Tariffs on the remaining products, such as selected meat and seafood produce, will be removed in the third to fifth years after the pact has been ratified.

Other benefits include having materials from Asean countries be deemed as originating from Singapore when incorporated into certain final products, enabling these items to qualify for preferential tariff treatment as well.

There are over 10,000 European companies in Singapore and the EU is Singapore's third-largest trading partner. Bilateral trade between both parties amounted to about €53 billion (\$81 billion) in 2018.

Besides the EUSFTA, two other agreements received majority support on Wednesday but unlike the trade pact, they will need to be approved by regional and national Parliaments of all member states before they can enter into force.

One of them is the EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement (IPA), which will replace 12 existing bilateral investment treaties between Singapore and various EU member states, encouraging investments and setting out rules giving investors protection.

The other is the EU-Singapore Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, which provides a framework to deepen cooperation in key political areas from transport to science and technology.

The FTA is a positive development given uncertainties on how long US-China trade tensions may last, OCBC Bank's head of treasury research and strategy Selena Ling told The Straits Times. She added that the EU market can provide some buffer to companies here.

The EU-Singapore FTA has been over a decade in the making, with member of the European Parliament David Martin saying in a parliamentary debate on Tuesday that the FTA "sends a message that the EU is committed to a rules-based trading system".

"While (US President) Donald Trump wants to build walls to separate nations, we are... keeping fair and free trade alive," said Mr Martin, who is also an EUSFTA rapporteur and has been in charge of drafting and presenting reports on the pact to the European Parliament. "Singapore is a safe harbour for EU trade and investments."

The Republic is also a gateway for EU firms to access other major economies such as China and India, said another rapporteur Antonio Lopez-Isturiz White. He added that the trade pact opens new business opportunities as well.

With the EUSFTA being the first bilateral trade agreement signed between the EU and an Asean country, leaders noted it is also a model for future agreements with others in the region.

Some, however, raised concerns during the debate, including those over workers' rights, as Singapore has yet to ratify several conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

EU trade commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom replied that although it is true that Singapore has yet to ratify three ILO conventions, work is under way to ensure compliance.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/european-parliament-votes-yes-on-free-trade-partnership-agreements-with-singapore>

- **Channel News Asia, 14 February 2019:** Broadcast network Channel NewsAsia which covers which covers all key political and economic developments in the region provided extensive coverage too.

Business

European Parliament approves EU-Singapore free trade, partnership agreements



The EUSFTA will eliminate tariffs and give businesses across various sectors, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, better market access. (Photo: MCI by Chwee via Facebook / Lee Hsien Loong)

SINGAPORE: Three landmark agreements between Singapore and the European Union (EU) were given the go ahead after a vote in Strasbourg, France on Wednesday (Feb 13).

The European Parliament gave its consent to the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA), EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement (EUSIPA) and EU-Singapore Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (ESPCA) following the vote.

The EUSFTA and EUSIPA are the first trade and investment agreements concluded between the EU and a member state of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) in a press release on Wednesday.

Foreign Affairs Minister Vivian Balakrishnan wrote in a Facebook post that the ESPCA will complement the other two agreements and provides a basis to "broaden cooperation" in areas such as education, transport, air services as well as science and technology.

Following the approval by the European Parliament, both the EU and Singapore will undertake their "respective internal administrative processes" to enable the EUSFTA to enter into force as soon as possible, said MTI.

The EUSIPA under the EU's processes will be sent to the regional and national parliaments of EU member states for approval before entry into force.

Calling this an "important milestone" in Singapore's bilateral relations with the EU, Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations S Iswaran said the two trade and investment agreements (EUSFTA and EUSIPA) would bring strategic and economic benefits to both sides.

"The two agreements are also strategic pathfinders to an eventual EU-ASEAN trade and investment agreement," he said.

"They are a tangible demonstration of the EU and Singapore's shared commitment to open and rules-based trade and will anchor the EU's presence in ASEAN."

President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker said: "The European Parliament's approval of the EU-Singapore trade and investment agreements marks a historical moment.

"This is the EU's first bilateral trade agreement with a Southeast Asian country. It is also the first time the EU concludes a self-standing investment protection agreement at EU level; an agreement that – in line with the EU's new approach - will improve the protection of European investors and their investments, while fully safeguarding governments' power to regulate in the public interest."

The landmark EUSFTA will eliminate tariffs and give businesses across various sectors, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), better market access.

Singapore will remove tariffs on all EU products entering Singapore, while the EU will remove tariffs on 84 per cent of all Singapore products entering the EU within the first year, with the remaining 16 per cent to follow over a period of three to five years.

The EU is Singapore's third largest trading partner, with bilateral trade in goods exceeding S\$114 billion in 2018.

Singapore is the also largest EU trading partner in ASEAN, with more than 10,000 EU companies established here to serve the Pacific region.

In 2018, Singapore's total exports in goods to the EU were about S\$49 billion, while imports from the EU totalled about S\$65 billion.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/business/european-parliament-approves-eu-singapore-free-trade-partnership-11239836>

- **The Business Times, 14 February 2019 (Online Edition):**

European Parliament nod for free trade, partnership pacts with Singapore

THE European Parliament has given the green light to a landmark trade agreement with Singapore that is set to remove nearly all customs duties between the two jurisdictions.

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Besides the EUSFTA, two other agreements received majority support on Wednesday but unlike the trade pact, they will need to be approved by regional and national parliaments of all member states before they can enter into force.

One of them is the EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement, which replaces investment treaties that 13 EU countries had in place with Singapore, encourages investments between both parties and sets out rules giving investors protection.

The other is the EU-Singapore Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, which provides a framework to deepen cooperation in key political areas from transport to science and technology.

The EU-Singapore FTA has been over a decade in the making, with member of the European Parliament David Martin saying in a parliamentary debate on Tuesday that the FTA "sends a message that the EU is committed to a rules-based trading system".

"While (US President) Donald Trump wants to build walls to separate nations, we are . . . keeping fair and free trade alive," said Mr Martin, who is also an EUSFTA rapporteur and has been in charge of drafting and presenting reports on the pact to the European Parliament. "Singapore is a safe harbour for EU trade and investments." The Republic is also a gateway for EU firms to access other major economies such as China and India, said another rapporteur Antonio Lopez-Isturiz White. He added that the trade pact opens new business opportunities as well.

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EU trade commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom replied that although it is true that Singapore has yet to ratify three ILO conventions, work is underway to ensure compliance.

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/european-parliament-nod-for-free-trade-partnership-pacts-with-singapore>

Social Media Coverage

- The EU Parliament vote on the three agreements continues to receive excellent coverage on social media platforms including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
- Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's message. Most Singapore ministerial messages have been picked up by mainstream media.



Delighted that the European Parliament has voted to approve the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement, and the EU-Singapore Partnership Agreement.

The EU is our largest investor and a major trading partner. The FTA will give Singapore and the EU better access to each other's markets, and boost investment and business opportunities. We hope it will also lead to an EU-ASEAN FTA and promote cooperation between both regions.

My thanks to the teams involved for their hard work and perseverance over the past nine years on this project! – LHL

(At the signing of the agreements in Brussels last October. / MCI Photo by Chwee)

👍 284 💬 28 ➦ 10

Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan's reaction:



Singapore Minister for Communications and Information and Minister-in-charge for Trade Relations S.Iswaran's Facebook message



S Iswaran 13 hours ago



Happy to hear the good news that the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) and the EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement (EUSIPA) have been approved by the European Parliament. Both the EU and Singapore will now begin internal administrative processes to enable the EUSFTA to enter-into-force as soon as possible. Under the EU's processes, the EUSIPA will be sent to the regional and national parliaments of the EU member states for approval before it can come into force.

These agreements offer Singapore companies, especially our SMEs, valuable access to European markets and significant savings on tariffs they would otherwise have to pay. MTI and our economic agencies will reach out to our business community to help them fully utilise and maximise benefits from the agreements. The EUSFTA and EUSIPA business guide which is jointly produced by Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry and the European Commission provides useful information and can be found here.

<https://www.mti.gov.sg/.../E.../SG-EU-Trade-and-Investment-7.pdf>

Ministry of Trade & Industry

Singapore Trade & Industry Minister Chan Chun Sing's Facebook message



Chan Chun Sing ✓

12 hours ago



The European Parliament voted and gave consent to the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) and EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement (EUSIPA) today. It marks a major milestone in Singapore and the EU's longstanding relationship.

The EU is Singapore's largest trading partner in services, third largest trading partner in goods, and our largest foreign investor. Over 10,000 EU companies are based here, making Singapore the top location for European investments in ASEAN. Similarly, Singapore is the EU's largest trading partner in both goods and services in ASEAN.

The agreements will bring many new opportunities to our people, and facilitate greater trade and investments between EU and Singapore, taking our already robust economic relations to a higher level.

Looking ahead, I am confident that the entry-into-force of the agreements will proceed smoothly and swiftly so that our businesses can benefit from the agreements as soon as possible.

It has been an almost decade-long effort between the Singapore Government and the European Commission to bring these agreements to this stage. I would like to thank all relevant agencies for their efforts and contributions in making this happen today.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry and the European Commission have jointly produced a business guide to help EU and Singapore companies better utilise the agreements. I strongly encourage Singapore businesses to read the guide and learn more about the agreements. CCS

Find out more here: <https://www.mti.gov.sg/.../E.../SG-EU-Trade-and-Investment-7.PDF>

The news continues to garner eyeballs on social media with several notable mentions

 **Manfred Weber** ✓
@ManfredWeber Follow ▾

Good news, the @Europarl_EN approved the EU-Singapore trade agreement today. After #ceta and #eujapan this is another step forward for stable, free and fair trade. While others build walls, we build trade deals that will bring growth & jobs ! #eustrade

4:28 AM - 13 Feb 2019

37 Retweets 100 Likes



1 37 100

 **Konstantin Weiss** @Mo190311 · 3h ▾
Replying to @ManfredWeber @MarkHauptmann @Europarl_EN
Trumps „America first“ policies have brought growth & many jobs to the US.
1 37 100

 **Umberto GAMBINI**
@UGambini Follow ▾

Replying to @ALDEgroup @ramontremosa

Very clear message! Yes to #Singapore FTA
@Trade_EU @MalmstromEU @BPlinkertEU

BRAVOOOO @davidmartinmep !



3:23 AM - 13 Feb 2019



EU in Singapore
@EUinSingapore

Follow

Media coverage for @EuropeanParl nod for landmark #EUSFTA #EUSIPA #ESPCA continues here in

Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan calls it "a major milestone in our relations with the EU."

@TODAYonline reports #EUSG

@eu_eeas



Delighted to hear that the European Parliament has approved the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA), EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement (EUSIPA) and the EU-Singapore Partnership Agreement (ESPCA).

This is a major milestone in our relations with the EU, our third largest trading partner and largest foreign investor. It will pave the way for the entry into force of the EUSFTA

1:32 PM - 13 Feb 2019



European External Action Service ...

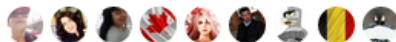
@eu_eeas

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"Our new agreement will allow us to build on what we have already and to do more together to achieve our common goals, both on the bilateral agenda and in tackling global challenges" @FedericaMog on EU-Singapore trade and investments agreements [europa.eu/rapid/press-re ...](https://europa.eu/rapid/press-re...)

4:42 AM - 13 Feb 2019


20 Retweets 43 Likes



16

20

43

INTA Committee Press 
@EP_Trade

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EU-Singapore free trade and investment protection deal gets green light in EP. Read more: bit.ly/2Dxnh6g @davidmartinmep @Trade_EU @malmstromEU



EP gives green light to EU-Singapore trade and investm...
Parliament endorsed the free trade and investment protection deals between EU and Singapore, serving as blueprint for further cooperation with Southeast Asia.
europarl.europa.eu

3:31 AM - 13 Feb 2019

22 Retweets 24 Likes



1 22 24

 **Ramon Tremosa** 
@ramontremosa

Follow 

Congrats @MalmstromEU @Trade_EU @BPlinkertEU !

#Singapore fair #FTA and #IPA received clear comfortable consent from the @Europarl_CAT.

BRAVO @davidmartinmep for a well driven negotiation!



Cc @SeanKellyMEP @SyedKamall @BrusselsMti



4:15 AM - 13 Feb 2019 from Strasbourg, France

 **Miguel Berger** 
@GERonEconomy

Follow 

EU trade policy strengthens its Asia pivot. #Singapore is our main trading partner in #ASEAN. Our new EU Trade & Investment Agreements with  are progressive. We welcome that  underlined its commitment to sustainability provisions.

@Trade_EU @davidmartinmep @GermanyinSGP



EU in Singapore @EUinSingapore
A landmark moment for EU-Singapore ties. #EUSFTA #EUSIPA #ESPCA get overwhelming @Europarl_EN nod. Strong signal for free, open and rules-based trade. @MTLS #trade

7:13 AM - 13 Feb 2019

1 Retweet 3 Likes



1 1 3



Noel Clehane
@NoelClehane

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#Services already constitute 49% of #trade between Singapore and the EU. Ratification of the #EUSFTA will boost all trade and #FDI between EU and this vibrant #ASEAN country!
@BDOGlobal @BDO_Singapore
@EU_AseanBC @EUAmbASEAN @MTI_Sg
@EUinASEAN @ASEAN



EU Services Forum @EUServicesForum
@Europarl_EN will vote tomorrow to ratify the EU-Singapore FTA, an important export market for EU services; and a crucial trade and investment hub for the Asia-Pacific region & #ASEAN #EUSFTA
@Trade_EU @MalmstromEU. Services represents 49% of total...

3:22 AM - 13 Feb 2019 from [Paddington, London](#)



Burhan Gafoor
@BurhanGafoor

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European Parliament approves EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement; A major milestone in relations; todayonline.com/singapore/euro... @EUinSingapore @EUatUN



European Parliament approves EU-Singapore free trade, partnership agr...
todayonline.com

12:07 PM - 13 Feb 2019 from [Manhattan, NY](#)

4 Retweets 8 Likes



4 8



Daciana Sarbu
@DacianaSarbu

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This is about building bridges & partnerships, new markets and new chances; about creating new opportunities for #EU consumers and producers alike; about cooperation and trust; about investing in - and for - the future 🌱🌱🌱 #EUSFTA #EUSIPA #EUSPCA

Sorin Moisa @sorinmoisa
As Chair of Friends of Singapore in #EP welcoming 3 historic ratifications today #EUSFTA #EUSIPA #EUSPCA upgrading #EU's economic & strategic partnership with key #ASEAN country. Ushering in new era in trade, investment, political ties ...

3:40 AM - 13 Feb 2019

2 Retweets 6 Likes



Sorin Moisa
@sorinmoisa

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As Chair of Friends of Singapore in #EP welcoming 3 historic ratifications today #EUSFTA #EUSIPA #EUSPCA upgrading #EU's economic & strategic partnership with key #ASEAN country. Ushering in new era in trade, investment, political ties @davidmartinmep @TonoEPP @MalmstromEU @MTI_S



3:17 AM - 13 Feb 2019



Dorte Bech Vizard
@DKAmbSG

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An important day for #free #trade and a rules-based international order. Hope to see this agreement eventually leading to an EU-ASEAN FTA linking two important regional successes #EUSFTA #DKinSG



EU in Singapore @EUinSingapore
A landmark moment for EU-Singapore ties. #EUSFTA #EUSIPA #EUSPCA get overwhelming @EuroParl_EN nod. Strong signal for free, open and rules-based trade. @MTI_S #trade

6:21 AM - 13 Feb 2019

3 Retweets 8 Likes

8



Jean Pierre De Meerleer Sánchez
@JeanpDMS

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The European Parliament @Europarl_EN gave its consent to 3 landmark agreements between the #EU & #Singapore 🇪🇺🇸🇬 which will further deepen and strengthen bilateral relations 🇪🇺🇸🇬 #EUSFTA #EUSIPA #ESPCA #YearOfThePig 🐷🐷🐷🐷🐷🐷



MTI MTI Singapore
@MTI_Sg

Follow

The European Parliament has approved the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) and EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement (EUSIPA) today, taking our already robust economic relations to a higher level. For details on the key benefits, visit: bit.ly/2SO3E3s

Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA)

The EUSFTA will provide Singapore companies with **greater market access** to all EU member states*

The EU is Singapore's **3rd largest trading partner** and the world's

Singapore companies can bid for more government procurement projects in the EU. These include:

- Energy
- Construction
- Transportation
- Information Technology

Reduction of Technical and Non-Tariff Barriers in Key Sectors

Singapore exporters will have been operational cost with the reduction of Singapore origin and certification procedures in the following sectors:

- Automotive
- Food and Beverages
- Textiles and Apparel
- Chemicals

Enhanced Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

The EUSFTA provides for the areas of copyright protection:

- Singapore based producers can collect trademark fees
- 84% of Singapore exports will benefit from the resulting product will be removed

Liberal and Flexible Rules of Origin for Singapore's Exports

Key products originating in Singapore (other products are grandfathered) will be able to access the EU market.

*With "addition cumulation" materials sourced from ASEAN Member States would be deemed as originating in Singapore and consequently eligible for preferential tariff treatment.

Improved market access in services sectors

Singapore businesses will have improved market access in a wider range of services sectors in the EU.

3:57 AM - 13 Feb 2019

12 Retweets 14 Likes



Jean Pierre De Meerleer Sánchez
@JeanpDMS

Follow

The #EU and #Singapore just released a joint brochure on the key benefits of the #EUSFTA and #EUSIPA 🇪🇺🇸🇬 The agreements will especially benefit consumers, workers and SMEs #tradeforall 🌞 Download your free copy here ➡️ [@Trade_EU @MTI_Sg](https://cdn3-eeas.fpfis.tech.ec.europa.eu/cdn/farfuture/...@Trade_EU)



European Union – Singapore
Trade and Investment
Agreements

EU Trade  
@Trade_EU Follow



MEPs in the [@Europarl_EN](#) just adopted the trade & investment agreements with Singapore! They will make it easier and cheaper for EU businesses to trade there. Find out more   and at  [bit.ly/EUSGtrade](#)

0:21 1,911 views

4:04 AM - 13 Feb 2019

 **Barbara Plinkert** 
@BPlinkertEU Follow

European Parliament endorses the free trade and investment protection deals between EU and Singapore, serving as blueprint for further cooperation with Southeast Asia. More details here 

INTA Committee Press  @EP_Trade
EU-Singapore free trade and investment protection deal gets green light in EP. Read more: [bit.ly/2Dxnh6g](#) @davidmartinmep @Trade_EU @malmstromEU

3:39 AM - 13 Feb 2019

4 Retweets 13 Likes 

 1  4  13



Seán Kelly MEP
@SeanKellyMEP

Follow

After a number of years of hard work, I am delighted that we have finally got the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement through @Europarl_EN. From an Irish perspective, the benefits are clear, particularly for our agri-food sectors. @FineGael @EPPGroup @EPP_IE @EP_Trade



0:37 1,443 views



Louis Hinzen
@louhinzen

Follow

On tomorrow: ➡ @Europarl_EN vote to ratify the EU-Singapore FTA 👍 - the EU's 1st agreement with an #ASEAN member country, an important export market for EU food & drinks, and trade hub for the Asia-Pacific region. #EUSFTA 🇪🇺 🇸🇬 @Trade_EU @EUAgri

9. Trade in goods

9.1 Manufactured goods

The EU is already a major exporter of goods to Singapore.

Before the agreement, almost all goods from the EU could already enter Singapore free of customs duties.

The new agreement will open the free access to all other EU goods to Singapore.

9.2 Food and drink products

Singapore is the fifth biggest export market in Asia for EU food and drink exports, with annual exports amounting to around €2 billion.

The agreement will make it easier for EU producers to export their products to Singapore and help to cutting customs duties, like the one on beer, but also to addressing issues not related to customs tariffs.

Examples of EU GIs that could be protected thanks to the agreement

Wine, spirits, ciders	Spain	Jerez
Cheese	France	Comté
Beer	Germany	Hofbräuhaus
Fruit, nuts, sweets	France	Purpura d'Agay
Flavoured...	Italy	Aceto Balsamico di Modena

5th largest agri-food export market in Asia and its 15th worldwide.

Singapore has zero duties on imports of agri-food products (except for beer, which the trade agreement will remove). In the agreement, Singapore has committed itself to keep zero duties on EU exports.

The trade agreement also tackles non-tariff measures and simplifies procedures that can make it hard for EU agri-food exporters to sell their products in Singapore. For example, the agreement will put in place a system for certifying EU meat-producing establishments wanting to export to Singapore.

Singapore has agreed to strengthen its existing...

2:49 PM - 12 Feb 2019



Cecilia Malmström
@MalmstromEU

Follow

Strong support for Singapore FTA and investment protection agreement today in EP plenary. Thank you @davidmartinmep for your hard work. The agreements strengthen our ties with Singapore 🇸🇬 and create possibilities for companies and citizens.

3:41 AM - 13 Feb 2019

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178



EuroCham Singapore @EuroChamSG · 4h

Tomorrow, 13 February, the @Europarl_EN is scheduled to be voting for the #eusfta to proceed with its actual implementation. Read more about our Joint Statement Letter issued in July 2018. #eusfta #business #advocacy eurocham.org.sg/news-post/eu-s...



Singapore, 2nd of July 2018

JOINT STATEMENT BY BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

EU business calls for a quick ratification and entry into force of the EU-Singapore FTA.

The EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) which has recently been submitted to the Council for approval should be signed swiftly and ratified without delay to allow EU business to take full advantage of the opportunities created by the Agreement. As well as offering huge economic opportunities, the trade agreement also includes far reaching disciplines on trade and sustainable development that will serve as a benchmark for other Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).



Mathilde Dupré @Mathilde_Dupre_ · 2h

27 associations, ONG et syndicats demandent aux eurodéputés de ne pas adopter l'accord d'investissement entre l'UE et Singapour #EUSIPA demain @PPE_FR @DSFEurope @Les_Europeens @euroecolos @GUENGL StopISDS lemonde.fr/economie/artic... via @lemondefr

1 1



GermanForeignOffice @GermanyDiplo · 14h

FM @HeikoMaas today in a telephone conversation with his counterpart @VivianBala on the Free Trade Agreement #EUSFTA: Important signal for free trade and against protectionism. Commitment to implement ILO-Standards is an essential part of Free Trade Agreements

8 5

Lookback: Key media articles on the agreements (October-December 2018)

Opinion Editorial in The Straits Times by EU Ambassador to Singapore Barbara Plinkert

3 landmark agreements deepen EU-S'pore ties

Barbara Plinkert

For The Straits Times

In this crucial year of Singapore's role as Asean chair and coordinator of Asean-EU relations for the next three years, three landmark agreements pave the way for even closer ties between the European Union and Singapore.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong yesterday signed the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) with European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in Brussels. They witnessed also the signing of the EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) and the EU-Singapore Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA).

The signing of the comprehensive EUSFTA is a clear signal that the EU – the largest trading bloc in the world – and Singapore firmly believe in free and open trade and the benefits that it brings to consumers, workers, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and civil society at large. It helps strengthen an open, rules-based multilateral

trading system for the world.

The EU remains by far the largest investor in Singapore. Bilateral foreign direct investment stocks reached €256 billion (\$340.4 billion) in 2016. The FTA contains a wide range of trade facilitating measures that will help promote greater access to each other's markets for trade in goods, services and public procurement. The IPA will encourage investments between the EU and Singapore, setting out rules that give investors a high level of protection, while the PCA will provide a framework to deepen cooperation in key political areas, from transport to science and technology.

Collectively, these agreements open a new chapter in EU-Singapore relations.

Singapore is already the EU's first trading partner in the Asean region and the 14th worldwide, while the EU is Singapore's third-largest trading partner after Malaysia and China, with trade in goods and services expanding on a yearly basis.

With the EUSFTA in place, Singaporean firms have secured access to 500 million consumers in the EU. The EUSFTA adds to the already positive trends when it

comes to trade. Annual bilateral trade between the EU and Singapore in goods and services has increased significantly in the past decade and could surpass the €100 billion mark this year.

Trade in goods expanded by 9.23 per cent in January-July this year on a year-to-year basis, with a positive trend for both imports and exports. Bilateral trade in goods amounted to €53.3 billion last year,

Singapore's position as a gateway for European business to Asean will be reinforced through these new agreements. The EUSFTA and IPA are the first of their kind signed between an Asean member and the EU. They will serve as a reference point and set the standard for future trade deals of the EU in South-east Asia, as well as a future Asean-EU agreement.

with the EU exporting goods worth €33.16 billion, mainly cars and machinery, while importing €20.14 billion, in particular chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

Singapore's position as a gateway for European business to Asean will be reinforced through these new agreements. The EUSFTA and IPA are the first of their kind signed between an Asean member and the EU. They will serve as a reference point and set the standard for future trade deals of the EU in South-east Asia, as well as a future Asean-EU agreement.

The EUSFTA will strengthen already positive EU-Singapore trade and investment relations. First, it will eliminate all tariffs for EU exports to Singapore. On entry into force, over 80 per cent of all imports from Singapore will enter the EU duty-free. For the remaining products, EU tariffs will be removed within three or five years, depending on the product category.

The EUSFTA will also lift restrictions in the service sector, where bilateral trade amounted to €44.4 billion in 2016. The EU is Singapore's largest trading partner in services, while over 12,000 EU companies use Singapore as a hub to serve South-east Asia.

Second, in addition to the removal of Customs duties and non-tariff barriers for trade in goods and services, the EUSFTA contains important new provisions on intellectual property protection, investment liberalisation, public procurement, competition and sustainable development. It will ease business dealings in Singapore and the EU, especially for SMEs.

The IPA with Singapore will offer more certainty to investors while safeguarding the rights of the EU and Singapore to regulate and pursue public policy objectives such as the protection of public health, safety and the environment. It will replace the 12 existing bilateral investment treaties between Singapore and EU member states.

Along with the EUSFTA and the IPA, the PCA reflects the commitment of both parties to deepen ties and set them on a new, wider and comprehensive foundation.

The PCA will provide a new and enhanced legal framework governing overall relations between the EU and Singapore. It will enable mutually beneficial cooperation in key areas such as security, environment, energy, transport, science and technology. The PCA will also improve people-to-people links through study and cultural exchanges.

Stronger Singapore-EU ties will also provide more opportunities for broader Asean-EU collaboration. As the two most advanced regional integration initiatives in the world, with over 40 years of collaboration, the EU and Asean are indeed natural partners working towards achieving shared goals. This is consistent with the conviction that

thinking and acting beyond borders is a pre-condition for tackling global challenges such as climate change, terrorism and cybercrime.

For example, cooperation on security is a strategic and growing aspect of the EU's relationship with Asean, and includes areas such as maritime security, conflict prevention, mediation and reconciliation, crisis management, transnational crime.

Having advanced its internal capacity as a security actor in recent years, the EU has become a stronger partner on security matters externally too. With Asean, this has been translated into various key engagements in regional platforms such as the Asean Regional Forum, Shangri-La Dialogues and Singapore International Cyber Week.

Together, the EU and Singapore can overcome geographical distances through ever increasing digital and people-to-people links. Both sides are already like-minded partners which are committed to the principles of multilateralism, free and open trade, and a rules-based global order.

The conclusion of these three significant agreements with Singapore underlines the EU's commitment to establishing stronger networks and strengthening partnerships, and to remaining a dependable and steady partner, in times of rising protectionism and rapid global transformations.

stopinion@sph.com.sg

• Barbara Plinkert is Ambassador of the European Union to Singapore.

Page 1: The Straits Times



Coverage in The Business Times and The Straits Times



EU-SINGAPORE

Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA)
Investment Protection Agreement (EUSIPA)
Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (ESPCA)

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS



I was delighted that Singapore and the EU signed the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA), EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement and the EU-Singapore Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (ESPCA) on Oct 19.

In the current climate of global uncertainty, rising protectionism, isolationism and populism, the signing of the three agreements underscores that Singapore and the EU are like-minded partners who share a commitment to multilateralism, rule of law, and free and open trade. They lay the foundation for even stronger ties between Singapore and the EU.

The ESPCA that I signed with the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini will strengthen our bilateral account.

It will allow for greater cooperation in a broad span of areas, including science and technology, information society, transport and energy, as well as environment and sustainable development. We also look forward to more exchanges between educational institutions to promote the understanding and appreciation of each others' cultures, economies and social systems.

The ESPCA will also give impetus for more cooperation within the framework of regional and international fora such as the United Nations (UN), ASEAN, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

This complements Singapore's role as the Coordinator for ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations for the next three years. During our term, we hope to achieve greater ASEAN-EU connectivity and enhance people-to-people ties through the conclusion of the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement and the resumption of negotiations for an ASEAN-EU Free Trade Agreement.

I look forward to the strengthening of the partnership between Singapore and the EU in the years ahead.

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan
Minister for Foreign Affairs

THE EUSFTA AND EUSIPA — A NEW CHAPTER FOR EU-SINGAPORE TRADE AND INVESTMENT RELATIONS

After nearly a decade since negotiations commenced in 2009, the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) and EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement (EUSIPA) were signed on Oct 19, 2016. It is a much-awaited milestone and, once ratified in the EU, these agreements will herald a new chapter in EU-Singapore economic relations.

Singapore and the EU are longstanding partners. Our robust bilateral relations are underpinned by strong and growing trade and investment links. The EU is Singapore's third largest trading partner in goods, largest trading partner in services, and our largest foreign investor. Over 10,000 EU companies are based here, making Singapore the number one location for EU investments in ASEAN and number two in Asia. Conversely, Singapore is the EU's largest trading partner in both goods and services in ASEAN. We are also the EU's largest ASEAN and third largest Asian investor, with the stock of Singapore direct investments in the EU increasing more than five fold over the past decade.

Singapore and EU companies, MNCs and SMEs, will benefit significantly from both agreements. Apart from the elimination of tariffs, the agreements will improve market access for trade in services, open up more government procurement opportunities, and raise the level of protection for investment. New trade challenges in the modern economy will also be addressed, with strong provisions for sustainable development, intellectual property rights protection, and other areas. More importantly, the agreements will offer greater clarity and confidence to SMEs seeking to venture into the EU or Singapore markets. The EUSFTA will improve the business environment by addressing technical barriers to trade that make it difficult for companies to sell their products in different markets in four major sectors: electronics, motor vehicles and vehicle parts, pharmaceutical products and

medical devices, and renewable energy generation.

Singapore food manufacturers, many of whom are SMEs, will welcome the news that the EUSFTA marks the first trade deal to secure enhanced market access for Asian food products made in Singapore. EU consumers will be able to enjoy a wider range of food products that may otherwise not be available in their local markets. Similarly, EU producers of distinctive regional food products, wine and spirits will stand to benefit from greater levels of protection for Geographical Indications (GI) registered in Singapore. Consumers in Singapore will also be able to better recognise authentic quality EU food products, wine and spirits.

The EUSFTA is expected to boost bilateral trade in goods by 10 per cent within five years of entering into force. It will also facilitate both EU and Singapore businesses access to large markets on both sides — 500 million consumers in the EU and over 600 million consumers in ASEAN. We are confident that this agreement will create new jobs and opportunities in both Singapore and the EU. We look forward to the EUSFTA and EUSIPA paving the way for greater region-to-region connectivity between the EU and ASEAN, and to the commencement of this new and exciting phase in our bilateral relationship.



Mr S Iswaran
Minister for Communications and Information and Minister in-charge of Trade Relations

“The EUSFTA is an ambitious and positive agreement, which will strengthen and deepen our economic ties with Singapore. This deal will attract new investment and create business opportunities for European companies based in Singapore and for those looking to expand their business to South-east Asia.”

Mr Federico Donato
President, European Chamber of Commerce (Singapore)

“The EU is Singapore's third largest trading partner. With the EUSFTA, Singapore businesses can look forward to better access to the 500 million consumers in the EU. It will also reinforce Singapore's position as a gateway to ASEAN for European businesses. Enterprise Singapore will continue to identify new trade opportunities and support our companies setting up a footprint in the EU.”

Ms Kathy Lai
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Enterprise Singapore

“The EUSFTA — a timely and crucial development in support of open and free trade — will provide Singapore companies opportunities with preferential and improved access for products and services to the EU's large market. SBF is committed to support the successful implementation of the EUSFTA and to help our companies, especially our SMEs, take advantage of its enormous benefits.”

Mr Teo Siang Seng
Chairman, Singapore Business Federation (SBF)

LANDMARK AGREEMENTS DEEPEN EU-SINGAPORE TIES

By **AJ Liew**

On Oct 19, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong signed the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) with European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in Brussels.

They also witnessed the signing of the EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement (EUSIPA) and the EU-Singapore Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (ESPCA).

Says Her Excellency Barbara Plietker, European Union (EU) Ambassador to Singapore: “This is a significant step forward in sending a strong signal that the EU and Singapore are like-minded partners and believe in an open, rule-based, multilateral free trade order.”

The first trade deal signed between the EU and a South-east Asian economy, the EUSFTA's trade provisions include the removal of non-tariff barriers and areas such as intellectual property rights, public tenders, as well as safety and environmental standards.

These span key sectors such as electronics, motor vehicles, renewable energy, food products, and pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

The EUSFTA recognises the integrated nature of supply chains in South-east Asia and Singapore's regional trade hub status, allowing Singapore-based manufacturers to include components sourced from ASEAN countries for exports to the EU.

Companies in the services sector can compete on an equal footing more easily, due to the alignment of regulations and standards in telecommunications, environmental services, computing and financial services.

The EU is the largest investor in Singapore. In 2016, bilateral foreign direct investment stocks reached €255 (\$398) billion.

With the EUSFTA, Singaporean firms can gain access to the



H.E. Barbara Plietker, European Union Ambassador to Singapore

EU's 500 million consumers. Annual bilateral trade between the EU and Singapore in goods and services could surpass 100 billion Euros this year.

Ambassador Plietker calls it “a stepping stone towards greater engagement between the EU and South-east Asia” and says Singapore is “a gateway for European companies in the region”.

More than 10,000 EU companies in Singapore use it as a hub to serve the whole Asia Pacific region.

The EUSIPA will encourage investments between the EU and Singapore, setting rules that protect investors, while the ESPCA will deepen cooperation in key political areas, from transport and science, to technology.

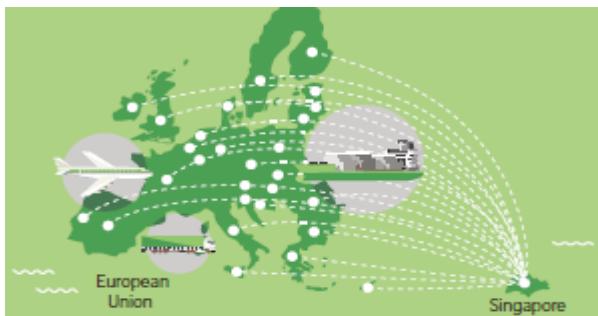
The ESPCA will also provide a new and enhanced legal framework governing overall relations between the EU and Singapore, and enable cooperation in security, environment, energy, transport, sciences and technology.

The conclusion of these three significant agreements with Singapore underlines “the EU's commitment to remaining a dependable and steady partner, in times of rising protectionism and rigid global transformations”, says Ambassador Plietker.

Benefits of the agreements

- 1. **Top** — Singapore is EU's largest trading partner in South-east Asia.
- 2. **It will set the benchmark** for EU cooperation with other countries in the region.
- 3. **Areas covered by the EUSFTA**: Improved market access for goods and services, labelling and safety testing, renewable energy, public procurement, intellectual property, and environment and labour standards.
- 4. **Enhanced access** for Singapore companies to government procurement opportunities in the EU — the largest government procurement market globally. Likewise, more opportunities for EU companies to participate in Singapore's public tenders.
- 5. **Over 10,000 EU companies** use Singapore as a regional hub. The deal opens up the market for European vehicles such as transport and telecoms.
- 6. **Enhanced protection** for EU geographical indications which include wine, spirits and agri-food products. Protection for intellectual property rights-holders — 70 years copyright protection, 20 years patent protection, 50 years trademark protection.
- 7. **The EUSIPA promotes investments** while providing guarantees to companies that their investments will be protected and treated fairly and on an equal footing with local investors.
- 8. **The ESPCA provides an enhanced legal framework** governing overall relations between the EU and Singapore. It will broaden and deepen mutual cooperation in areas such as security, energy, transport, science and technology as well as improve people-to-people links by facilitating mobility of students and scholars.





European Union-Singapore FTA (EUSFTA)

- First bilateral trade agreement concluded and signed between the European Union and an Asean country.
- Signed on Oct 19 in Brussels, on the sidelines of the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit.
- Agreements will be sent to the European Parliament for approval early next year, and the EU and Singapore will work towards ratifying them.
- EUSFTA will provide Singapore companies greater market access to all EU member states.
- EU is Singapore's third-largest trading partner and world's largest single market.

KEY BENEFITS

Elimination of Customs duties

ENTRY INTO FORCE

84% of Singapore exports will be able to enter the EU tariff-free.



(Asian food products, electronics, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, processed agricultural products)

THIRD TO FIFTH YEAR

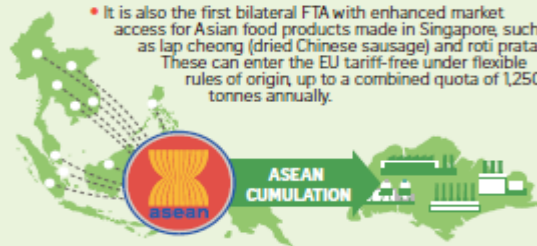
tariffs for the remaining products will be removed



(Selected meat and seafood produce, fruits, textiles, consumer goods)

Liberal and flexible rules of origin for Singapore's exports

- Key products originating in Singapore (either produced or processed) will be able to enter the EU tariff-free.
- Materials from Asean states will be deemed as originating from Singapore when incorporated into certain final products, which can enable such products to qualify for preferential tariff treatment
- It is also the first bilateral FTA with enhanced market access for Asian food products made in Singapore, such as lap cheong (dried Chinese sausage) and roti prata. These can enter the EU tariff-free under flexible rules of origin, up to a combined quota of 1,250 tonnes annually.



Improved market access to service sectors

- Singapore businesses will have better market access to a wider range of service sectors in the EU:



Government procurement

- Singapore companies can bid for more government procurement projects in the EU, such as in:



Reduction of duplicative testing and certification procedures in the following sectors

- Electronics; motor vehicles and vehicle parts; pharmaceuticals and medical devices

Stronger protection of Intellectual property rights

- Singapore-based producers can collect broadcasting and public performance royalties for productions that are exported into the EU.

Key Links to Coverage

- <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/european-parliament-votes-yes-on-free-trade-partnership-agreements-with-singapore>
- <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/business/european-parliament-approves-eu-singapore-free-trade-partnership-11239836>
- <https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/european-parliament-nod-for-free-trade-partnership-pacts-with-singapore>
- <https://www.straitstimes.com/business/free-trade-agreements-signed-in-2018>
- <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1926>
- <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=961>

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