

The EUSFTA

The EU's first FTA with an ASEAN member state. **BY JANICE HENG**

Elimination of customs duties

- Tariffs have been eliminated for 84 per cent of all tariffs lines for exports to the EU, upon the EUSFTA's entry into force.
- From the third to fifth year onwards, tariffs will be removed for remaining products, such as selected meat and seafood produce, fruits, textiles and consumer goods.

Liberal and flexible rules of origin

- Most key exports allow exporters to choose between types of rules of origin to qualify as an "originating product".
- There is also the new concept of ASEAN cumulation that allows manufacturers to include the use of materials from ASEAN member states with which there are specific arrangements.

Improved market access to services sectors



Professional services



Computer and related services



Business services



Transportation



Manufacturing



Postal services



Telecom services



Environmental services



Tourism and travel-related services

Reduction of technical and non-tariff barriers

Exporters will not have to duplicate testing and certification procedures for their products.

- Electronics
- Motor vehicles and parts
- Pharmaceuticals and medical devices
- Renewable energy generation

More government procurement opportunities

Singapore companies can bid for more such projects, including at the city and municipal level.

- Railway services
- Computer services
- Telecommunications
- Landscape architecture services

Better protection of intellectual property rights

- 70 years of copyright protection
- Enhanced protection for registered Geographical Indications such as Bordeaux wine and Prosciutto di Parma ham
- Singapore-based producers can collect broadcasting and performance royalties for productions exported to the EU



Milestones

Dec 2009
Negotiations launched



2010

2011

2012

2013

Sep 20, 2013
The Goods and Services Agreement is initialised

2014

May 22, 2015
The Investment Protection Chapter is initialised

2015

Oct 19, 2018
The EUSFTA and EUSIPA are signed



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (left) and President of the European Council Donald Tusk shake hands at the signing.

2017

2018

2019

2020

Dec 16, 2012
Negotiations on goods and services are concluded



Then-Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang (left) and then-EU Trade Commissioner Karel de Gucht at the conclusion of negotiations in Singapore.

Oct 2014
Negotiations on the Investment Protection Chapter are concluded

May 2017
The EUSIPA is spun off as a separate agreement

Feb 13, 2019
The European Parliament gives its approval to the agreements

Nov 8, 2019
The Council of the EU gives final approval

Nov 21, 2019
The EUSFTA and EUSIPA enter into force



European Commissioner-Designate for Trade Phil Hogan and Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations S Iswaran at the celebration for the entry into force.

