



Latest update: February 2016

Bilateral agricultural trade relations

EU agricultural trade with ASEAN countries

ASEAN countries are: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam.



The EU has a negative net trade position with ASEAN countries, showing a rather downward trend. ASEAN countries receive around 5.5% of EU exports and they also make up for around 11% of EU imports. The EU imports mostly commodities (rice) and intermediate products, among which animal and vegetable oils (mostly palm oil) are the largest category of imports (a share of around 40% in total agricultural

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imports from ASEAN). The surge in imports of these products was the main factor contributing to the deepening of the trade deficit with the EU over the last decade. Since 2002 in value terms palm oil have risen over threefold (almost doubled in volume). Other imported categories of products include coffee and tea, meat preparations, fatty acids and alcohols, and tropical fruits and spices among others.

The EU exports such products as spirits and liqueurs, milk powders, cereal preparations, wine, and dairy products, among others. A surge of exports has been observed particularly in spirits, the sale of which in ASEAN has gone up fourfold over the last decade (in value terms).

Following difficulties encountered in the region-to-region negotiations (EU-ASEAN FTA), both sides agreed to suspend negotiations in early 2009. On December 2009 the Council agreed to pursue bilateral FTAs with relevant ASEAN Countries beginning with Singapore. Negotiations with Singapore were concluded at political level in December 2012. Following the same approach, on 10 September 2010, the Council authorised the Commission to start negotiations for a FTA with Malaysia and thereafter with Viet Nam (2012) and Thailand (March 2013). Having been paused due to pending elections in Malaysia, negotiations may resume in the coming months. For Vietnam, negotiations were concluded in December 2015. As regards Thailand, negotiations are on hold since the military take-over in May 2014. Launch of negotiations with Philippines has been announced in December 2015. First round of negotiations is scheduled 1st semester 2016.

In addition to the market access dimension, these FTAs will also include a Chapter on intellectual property rights, including geographical indications, a priority sector for the EU in these emerging markets.

More trade information with certain ASEAN countries is available in the links below:

Thailand:http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/countries/agrifood-thailand_en.pdf

Indonesia:http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/countries/agrifood-indonesia_en.pdf

Vietnam:http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/countries/agrifood-vietnam_en.pdf

Philippines: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/countries/agrifood-philippines_en.pdf

Myanmar:http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/countries/agrifood-myanmar_en.pdf

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