



EU-THAILAND RELATIONS

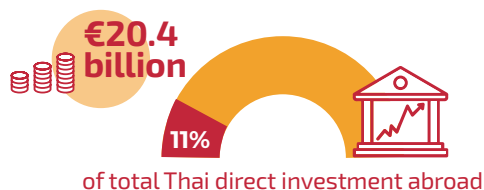
Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

July 2025

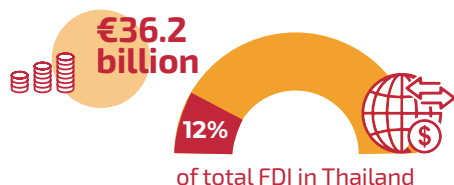
#EUDiplomacy

The EU and Thailand are longstanding partners. They are working together in support of the rules-based international order, to advance mutual prosperity and sustainable development, as well as regional stability.

Thai direct investment outward stocks in the EU (2023)



EU Foreign Direct Investment outward stocks in Thailand (2023)



EU tourists in Thailand (2023)



The EU is Thailand's 4th



Thailand is the EU's 4th



Trade in goods amounted (2023)



Trade in services amounted (2022)



Economic cooperation

Agriculture, transport, food systems, supply chains, digital solutions, transparency, efficiency

Security

Maritime security, Crisis Management, Cyber security, Counter Terrorism, CBRN risk mitigation

Sustainable development and connectivity

Human rights, public health, sustainable financing, SDG's, infrastructure, educational links

Decent work

Labour rights, labour migration, employment

Climate, energy and environment

Fight against climate change, green transition, renewable energy, energy efficiency, carbon pricing, deforestation, circular economy

Education, research and innovation

People-to-people connectivity, culture, Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, technology

1 New framework for cooperation



The EU-Thailand Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) entered into force in October 2024. The PCA aims at enhancing political dialogue on a wide number of policy areas and framing our cooperation for the years to come. A Joint Committee ensures the proper functioning of the Agreement.

The PCA is underpinned by the European Strategy on the Indo-Pacific, the Global Gateway strategy and the external dimension of the European Green Deal. The EU is supporting Thailand through a Cooperation Facility for the period of 2021-2027, as well as regional programmes for a total amount of €200 million. The Cooperation Facility is supporting policy dialogues, technical assistance and capacity building on a wide range of issues and with a diversity of stakeholders relevant to EU-Thailand relations.

In parallel, since September 2023 the EU and Thailand are engaged in negotiations for an ambitious, modern and balanced Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with sustainability at its core. This confirms the key importance of the Indo-Pacific region for the EU trade agenda, paving the way for deeper trade ties with Thailand, the second largest economy in South-East Asia, and further strengthening the EU's strategic engagement with this burgeoning region.

In addition to the growing dynamics of the bilateral relations, the EU actively engages with Thailand under international fora, including the United Nations. The EU looks forward to continue cooperating with Thailand through relevant international cooperative frameworks including Thailand's seat in the Human Rights Council and its bid for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) membership.

2 Security



The PCA will also boost cooperation on global challenges such as cyber security, maritime security, counter-terrorism, crisis management, the fight against organised crime, and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation, primarily through the EU facilities ESIWA+, CRIMARIO and the CBRN Centre of Excellence Initiative. The goal is to inspire each other as smart security enablers in pursuit of a more stable and prosperous world.

3 Sustainable Development And Connectivity



The PCA and the Global Gateway Strategy will strengthen cooperation on sustainable development, sustainable finance, and sustainable connectivity. The European Investment Bank (EIB) is ready to cooperate with Thai authorities towards these goals.

Thailand is coordinating ASEAN efforts on Sustainable Development, the 2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), co-chairing with the EU the ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development. The EU is supporting Thailand in localization of SDG's at the provincial level. Civil society organizations in Thailand are key actors of sustainable development and have developed a strong partnership with the EU.

Sustainable Connectivity through Global Gateway

During the EU-ASEAN Summit, the EU launched a Global Gateway Flagship Team Europe Initiative to enhance cooperation with ASEAN on trade and sustainable value chains; economic, transport, energy and digital connectivity; and on people-to-people connectivity in the area of higher education.

The Initiative will build on successful cooperation programmes, such as the regional integration and trade facilitation programme and the higher education cooperation programme. The EU-ASEAN Summit also welcomed the adoption of the EU-ASEAN Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (AE CATA) as a significant step towards enhancing connectivity between the two regions.



4 Decent work



The PCA also aims at enhancing exchanges between the EU and Thailand on labour related issues, circular economy, as well as sustainable consumption and production. Other areas of cooperation include labour migration, business and human rights as well as decent work in global supply chains.

Thailand is an important partner for the EU on labour-related matters as it is one of few countries in Asia who have launched a bilateral Labour Dialogue with the objective to promote decent work through closer cooperation, exchange of best practices and mutual learning.

5 Climate, energy and environment



The PCA encourages increased cooperation and exchange of best practices in bilateral, regional and multilateral fora to address climate, energy, environmental challenges. EU-Thailand cooperation is focusing on the development of renewable energy, energy efficiency, an effective carbon pricing system and green technologies for a fair and clean energy transition; pollution control, circularity and waste, agriculture, the protection of biodiversity, and the management of natural resources like water, wetlands, coastal areas and forests, as well as the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. The EU and Thailand are exploring further cooperation on the sustainable management of forests.

Deforestation

The EU and Thailand are cooperating for an inclusive, deforestation-free and legal production of products such as, palm oil, and furniture, ensuring highest transparency and traceability, while enabling the full participation of smallholders. The particular focus is on providing technical assistance to Thai smallholders towards scaled up traceability and deforestation-free practices, in line with the EU Deforestation Regulation's objectives and shared international commitments on climate and biodiversity, as well as on strengthening national tools (such as tractability systems and forest maps) in line with international definitions, such as the FAO definition of forest.

Carbon pricing and reducing emissions

The EU and Thailand will explore reinforcing their cooperation on carbon pricing and carbon trading among other means to support and encourage the decarbonisation, efficiency and resilience of their economies, in light of domestic and international developments.

Waste trafficking

Since 2021, the EU actively cooperates with Thailand to fight trafficking in waste, in support of ongoing efforts towards a circular economy transition. The 'UNWASTE programme', funded by the EU and implemented by UNODC, supports efforts to fight trafficking in waste by promoting enhanced EU-ASEAN Member States partnerships. The programme facilitates intra- and inter-regional dialogue at the policy level, and promotes a multi-country approach to combat the illicit movements of waste from the EU towards Southeast Asia.

Regional cooperation

The EU and Thailand cooperate at regional level through ASEAN, including through the EU-ASEAN High-Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change and the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI), a demand-driven cooperation programme supporting EU-ASEAN dialogues and fostering regional integration. The EU and Thailand are exploring further cooperation on the sustainable management of forests. Additionally, the EU-ASEAN Senior Transport Officials' Dialogue provides a platform for discussion on transport-related issues, including transport decarbonisation. There is also a Green Team Europe Initiative launched by the European Union in 2021 in partnership with South East Asia.

At the EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit, both sides also established an EU-ASEAN Energy Dialogue.



Circular Economy

The European Union and Thailand have developed a robust partnership to advance the circular economy, seeking alignment and synergies between the European Green Deal and Thailand's Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) economic model. Several projects are in place to foster this cooperation, developed thanks to tools such as SWITCH-ASIA and the Green Team Europe Initiative. A significant milestone in this collaboration was the establishment of the ASEAN Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform's Secretariat in Bangkok, which serves as a hub for knowledge sharing and policy dialogue among ASEAN nations, inspired by the EU's own circular economy stakeholder platform.

Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU)

The EU has established cooperation with Thailand to combat IUU fishing, with a view to promoting long-term conservation of marine biological resources and sustainable fisheries management, in line with international practices and commitments of both sides. This cooperation supports the implementation of a robust legislative and regulatory framework to effectively address the IUU fishing, developed with the EU's support. This includes the adoption of conservation and fisheries management measures based on available scientific information as well as the effective implementation of control, monitoring, and enforcement mechanisms, notably through the bilateral EU-Thailand IUU Working Group and E-READI.

6 Education, research and innovation



EU-Thailand cooperation on higher education, research and innovation provides a valuable contribution to mutual socio-economic development and people to people contacts. Besides Government sponsored programmes, EU and Thai Universities have established solid partnerships for many years.

In September 2022, the EU and Thailand signed a new initiative to promote cooperation on frontier science and to support Thai researchers' participation in research projects funded by the European Research Council. This will allow European and Thai researches to engage in sharing knowledge and working together on cutting edge new technologies.

Horizon Europe (2021-2027)



16



Thai researchers
benefitted from MSCA projects

30



Participants
from 18 different Thai
organizations

26



Projects involving Thailand
have already been
granted funding

Erasmus+



2nd



Thailand the 2nd largest participant
in Asia to E+ Capacity Building in Higher
Education in terms of selected projects

more than

2000



Thai students and staff
have taken part in the Erasmus+
International Credit Mobility Scheme

146



Scholarship-winners
from Thailand took part in Erasmus
Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs)