

Trade in Electronics under the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement

Webinar

Wednesday, 9 February 2022

4 - 6pm SGT

9 - 11am CET

#EUSFTA

There are many forms of **technical requirements** mandated by countries for goods to be sold in their territories, including design and content requirements, labelling, safety standards, mandatory functions, and testing procedures. In order to demonstrate fulfilment of technical requirements, countries require differing assessment and certification procedures. These technical regulations and standards can become non-tariff barriers (TBT) to international trade. The **electronics sector** – from consumer appliances to high-tech goods – is affected by, but also benefits from, standards, technical regulations and assurances of conformity. As a result, trading these goods across borders poses numerous challenges. Electronics also underpin **digitalisation, e-commerce and the digital economy**, and are of great importance for Singapore, the EU and their partners.

The EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA), which entered into force on 21 November 2019, aims to facilitate trade between the partners above and beyond what multilateral rules. The EUSFTA *inter alia* includes provisions on technical regulations and standards to ensure that Singapore and the EU **do not introduce rules that are more trade restrictive than necessary**. They seek to enhance transparency and **promote good practices and greater regulatory cooperation**. The EUSFTA also provides a possibility for **easier access for EU electronic goods to Singapore** by recognising various mechanisms to facilitate the acceptance of conformity assessment procedures conducted in the EU, and allowing for Self-Declaration of Conformity for products.

This webinar offers an opportunity to look at trade in the electronics sector between EU and Singapore. It will in particular provide practical, hands-on insights into how the EUSFTA provisions on technical regulations and the Electronics Annex can help EU and Singapore companies generate and capture value.

Singapore time	Agenda
4.00 – 4.10 pm	Welcome Address H.E. Iwona Piórko, European Union Ambassador to Singapore
4.10 – 4.20 pm	EU-Singapore trade (and investment) in electronics – An Overview Speaker: » Eugene Lim, Principal, WTS Taxise Asia, Team Leader This session will look at: » <i>Trade and investment in electronics between the EU and Singapore, and via Singapore</i> » <i>Some key numbers, narratives, stories, business and trade policy issues</i>
4.20 – 5.20 pm	Cutting red tape – how the EUSFTA helps: The EUSFTA Electronics Annex, the Singapore regulatory framework for electronics and telecoms equipment, the international standards framework and the WTO context

	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Luis Miguel Vega-Fidalgo, DG GROW, European Commission » Jun Hong YAP, Senior Assistant Director, International Trade Cluster, MTI » James Losari, Legal Expert » Dennis Chew, Regional Director Asian Pacific, International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) <p>This session will look at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » <i>The Electronics Annex of the EUSFTA and discusses how businesses can make use of the agreement in their operations.</i> » <i>The regulatory framework in Singapore for the import and sale of electronic products.</i> » <i>The relevance of international standards to the EUSFTA.</i> » <i>The WTO context.</i>
5.20 – 5.40 pm	<p>Industry Perspectives: The EUSFTA, Electronics Trade with/via Singapore, and the Electronics Industry in Singapore</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » [Invited: European Electronic Component Manufacturers' Association/European Semiconductors Industry Association (EECA/ESIA)] » [Invited: Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF)] » [Invited: EU electronics industry operator(s)] » Chris Southworth, Co-Chair, Legal Reform Advisory Group, ICC Digital Standards Initiative <p>This session will look at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » <i>Industry perspectives on electronics regulation in Singapore and the EU</i> » <i>The business reality of trade (and investment) in electronics between the EU and Singapore</i> » <i>The implications of the EUSFTA on trade in Electronics in Singapore.</i> » <i>Practical insights on the benefits of the EUSFTA for importers / exporters of electronic products</i> » <i>Other related business issues.</i>
5:40 – 5.55	<p>Singapore as a Trade and Manufacturing Hub for Electronics Supply Chains: Perspectives on the ASEAN, RCEP, CPTPP and other regional contexts</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Eugene Lim, Principal, WTS Taxise, Team Leader
5.55 – 6.00 pm	<p>Conclusions</p>
<p>Moderator: Hannes Schloemann, Director, WTI Advisors, Co-Lead, PSF Project – Support to the Implementation of the EUSFTA</p>	

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