

## **PARTICIPATING IN THE FOOD, AGRICULTURE and BEVERAGE (FAB) GROUP – August 2023**

The EABC Food, Agriculture and Beverage (FAB) Working Group comprises of European businesses in Thailand that operate in the areas of food, agriculture, and beverage industries. The resumption of EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations will accelerate an improvement in business climate and enhancement of trade and investment opportunities between both economic zones. In 2022, agri-food trade is accounted for 8%-9% of the total value of trade between European Union (EU) and Thailand, amounted USD41 billion.

### ***Objectives of the Food, Agriculture, and Beverage Working Group***

The FAB Working Group (WG)' core objectives are to pursue effective policy advocacy and partner with government and non-government stakeholders aimed at enhancements of trade and investment opportunities, level playing field as well as ease of doing business. The WG aim to be a thought leader and initiator of breakthrough and value-added solutions to matters in relation to Food, Beverages and Agriculture, a creator of consensus in the European business community and wider.

Some key policies that the WG focus on are as following:

- Enhance ease of doing business and regulatory reform (Regulatory Guillotine)
- Support EU-Thailand Free Trade negotiations to minimize tax burdens and market access
- Pursue fair and transparent taxation policy – excise tax and earmarked tax
- Grow e-commerce for food and beverages including beverage alcohol products
- Promote ESG among the member companies supporting the government's national agenda
- Drive a balanced policy that enables 'win-win' solutions for public health goal and economic goals
- Enhance food security and agri-trade according to the international market requirements
- Improve agricultural productivity, quality and food safety along the productions of agricultural value chains through facilitation of access to innovation and technology
- Support agriculture sustainability trends, which include a focus on transparency, circular economies, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

### ***Working Group Priorities:***

- EU-Thai FTA: Import duties, Sustainability, PCA, UPOV
- Fast Track Regulatory Reform
- European Green Deal
- Excise tax + Illicit trade + Earmarked Taxes
- Education on beverage alcohol aiming to reduce alcohol related harm
- Balanced alcohol control policy
- Price Control: Food, beverage, agricultural and FMCG goods
- RCEP: move Thailand as food processing hub and lift Thailand competitiveness
- Future Food Trend
- Food related regulations
- Food and nutrition security
- Access to agricultural innovation to increase farming productivity and Thai economy
- Tourism and hospitality economy

### ***Meetings: Internal and External Engagements***

- We have held a monthly meeting, in addition to sub-meetings for specific advocacy issues.
- We have worked with the entire EABC working groups
- We regularly organise courtesy meeting with strategic government stakeholders, particularly, high level officials.

### **Information**

We provide an oral and written update to the EABC Board of Directors via Board Advocacy Update. We also provide update; commentary/explanations/recommendations on urgent or occasional topics in addition to the European Business Position Paper (most recent 2025).

### **Questions? Join us...**

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