

AN EABC WORKING GROUP ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY - SCOPE & PURPOSE

(draft v 1.7; changes from CSI WG meeting 11 Dec 2025 included)

Interim name: **SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS WORKING GROUP**

Name of WG

- 1) **Sustainability WG;** (too nebulous)
- 2) **Sustainable Development WG;** (JFCCT Committee name)
- 3) **Sustainable Business WG** (seems better aligned with other EABC terminology – eg the Position Paper name, and also allows for better focus); **Agreed to use this as interim name**
- 4) **Business Sustainability WG** (similar to (3), but less elegant than (3). Four European chambers each year hold 'SBF' (Sustainability for Business Forum))

Choose a working title name, then at say second meeting with elected chair, confirm a name.

Background

Sustainability is the idea that goods and services should be produced in ways that do not use resources that cannot be replaced and that do not damage the environment. It also embraces social and other non-environmental factors. As the UN Sustainable Development Goals show, actions and conduct are inter-related; an impact in one area has a consequence in others. Sustainability needs to be understood as value-enhancing in its own right. Sustainability policies should be built-in, not bolted on. Industry education, promotion of understanding of the value of sustainability, how to implement etc and take advantage of promotions are all important.

Sustainability presents an opportunity to transform companies, industries, economies, drive innovation, and add value by improving business performance, as well as contributing to climate goals, improved environment, better business and improved societal outcomes. Integrating sustainability is as crucial as digitalization, both being essential enablers for future business transformation. EU-TH FTA should enhance Thailand's adoption of sustainability principles and practices, but the FTA is not the only driver of such adoption.

Sustainability is a broad and debased term. There are any number of conferences, programmes, development initiatives and other activities statements of intention in the name of sustainability. Lack of clarity can lead to nebulous thought and to greenwashing.

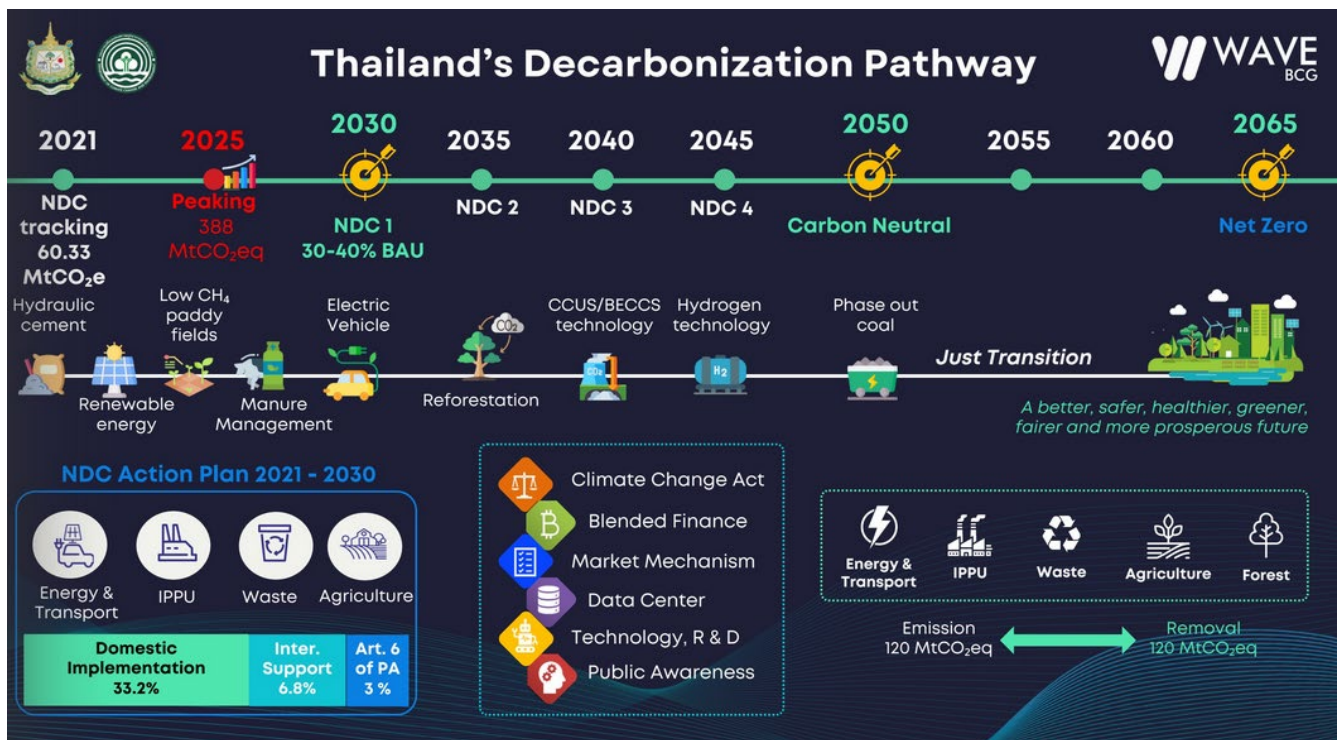
It is important that EABC defines what it intends for this WG which ,would support and meet expectations about what might be expected of the European Chamber of Commerce Thailand. Thus sustainability issues in relation to European – Thailand trade and investment would be high on the expectation list.

Objectives

The core objectives of the WG are to support the needs and sustainability-driven transformation aspirations of European business in Thailand, to promote sound economic, environmental, and social practices, encourage transparency and accountability, and contribute to positive development initiatives and engage in constructive advocacy towards these objectives. Standards for measurement and reporting of climate change management and other ESG aspects are essential for investor confidence. The WG advocates the adoption of sustainable practices across all business sectors and economic activities.

Scope: key competencies and policy areas that the WG include:

- i) Awareness, knowledge about climate fundamentals – Paris Agreement, Kyoto Protocol, [UNSDGs](#), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), [European Green Deal](#).
- ii) Legal bases and policy/legislative tools for sustainability – Paris Agreement, COP, Thailand's proposed Climate Change Act, other non climate
- iii) Labour and human Rights – familiarity with ILO conventions and what human rights mean in a Thailand labour market context. Thailand's proposed [mHREDD law](#) (mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence) and [recent amendments to the Labor Protection Act](#).
- iv) Concept of [Responsible Business Conduct](#) (whether this is through the OECD construct, or similar concepts – eg from SDGs or other)
- v) Familiarity with the language and jargon of Climate and Sustainability – eg Net Zero, Carbon Neutral, GHG / CO₂ equivalent (and MtCO₂e), NDCs ([including Thailand's recent NDC 3.0](#)), Article 6.2 ITMO, Carbon Trading, ETS, Carbon Pricing, Carbon Tax, Green Finance, 'Mitigation', 'Adaptation', CCUS, CCS, Sequestration, 'ESG' literally and as a proxy, SDGs, [IDGs](#). Familiarity with the pathways to Net Zero (national Net Zero is changing from 2065 to 2025).



Source: WAVE BCG

- vi) Trade requirements: CBAM, CSDDD, CSRD, EUDR etc. – and proposed revisions.
- vii) Measurement, Reporting, Sustainability and Climate Accounting and reporting; IFRS S1 (Sustainability), S2 (Climate) – evolution from voluntary to mandatory; evolving requirements for Thai companies. Knowledge about platforms to support measurement, reporting and support for transformation (eg Carbonwize, ESGPedia, CREX etc)
- viii) Carbon markets (EU ETS, ASEAN) – essentials, ETS; Carbon Tax.
- ix) Green / Sustainability Finance – ASEAN taxonomy II, Thailand taxonomy. Drivers – eg Climate Action 100+ members' expectations, Role of UNEP – FI. [Aligning Finance Flows with climate goals](#).
- x) Evolution of policies, regulation and objectives to understand the bases and trajectories, for a meaningful future, not just present application.
- xi) Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) chapter in the EU-TH FTA, according to text provided by the EU covers these main topics.

Labour
 Gender Equality
 Environmental Governance
 Climate
 Bio diversity Forests
 Marine biology / blue economy
 Responsible Business Conduct

Noting that the legislative source is EU regulation, not the FTA.

Scope: Key functions

1. Devise a programme to focus on the topics and developments most relevant to and with the greatest impact on the European business community in Thailand, so that the outcomes are relevant, real and useful and not just theoretical.
2. Promoting an inclusive but focused definition of Sustainable Business that encompasses a wide range of business activities, from financial and funding sustainability to operational and technological sustainability.
3. Support sustainable business practices and policies by leveraging knowledge, networks, and official access to develop, build, and scale sustainable practices, including about supply chains; and (for Climate) managing Scope 3.
4. Proactively participate in the development as early as possible of legal frameworks and policies concerning sustainability through constructive advocacy which draws on Working Group members and is informed by business and market needs and national strategy.
5. Play a leading role in policy and information consistency in relation to the proposed RBH Thailand (Responsible Business Help Desk) in accordance with an MoU, and collaborate with other Working Groups in that engagement.
6. Build consensus within the community by aligning with current national priorities and directives, in particular the Net Zero Climate commitments and in doing so, support standardization in measurement and reporting to give investor confidence in the Thailand economy and to support companies in their net zero journeys and transformations at company, industry and economy-wide levels.
7. Assist with an understanding of cost normalization – costs of being green, of sustainable trade and how, over time, experience, technology, regulatory learning can contribute to greater ease of doing sustainable business.
8. Keep a forward-looking focus, understanding developments and trajectories in order to be future-ready.
9. Engage with a select small group of advocacy partners being NGOs, supra-national bodies, industry groups and others including OECD Accession on relevant topics. This can be done by inviting such partners to WG meeting (see Operating Guidelines – the Working Group Chair has discretion to do this) and interacting and collaborating in other ways such as joint seminars, dialogues, contribution to white papers etc.

Out of Scope but to be aware and swap information or harmonise as needed.

- Energy, including renewable energy, RE targets in PDP, RECs, ASEAN Power Grid etc, – see Energy WG
- The Data Centre conundrum – powering DCs, AI, reducing demand, Renewable energy for Data Centres – Digital Economy/ICT WG
- Digitalisation as a sustainability tool – DE/ICT WG
- Sustainable agriculture; EPR/Circular Economy via Sustainable Packaging Management Act – see FAB WG
- Sustainable Tourism – Tourism WG
- Sustainable healthcare financing – H&P WG.

It is not that the Sustainable Business WG would presume all expertise in these areas or that somehow other WG would not have the necessary specialist sustainability expertise. The ‘holistic’ view of sustainability says that sustainability should inhere in all business activity. Rather, other WGs would continue with their focus. Through BAU, other information exchange and collaboration, organizational learning and compatible messaging can be achieved.

Initial focus areas

See separate file

Who

This EABC Working Group consists not only of European businesses in Thailand which operate in the field of sustainability or seek to integrate sustainable practices into their economic activities, but any which desire to contribute to positive sustainability-related economic policies and practices in Thailand.

Terms of Engagement

- Monthly (or every two months) meeting (usually hybrid format), in addition to sub-meetings on specific advocacy issues as needed, external engagements
- Subject matter expert guest speakers
- Engaging across other WGs as needed

Information

Oral and written updates to the EABC Board of Directors via Board Advocacy Updates. Provide updates; commentary/explanations/recommendations on urgent or occasional topics in addition to the European Business Position Paper. Interact with other stakeholders .

Questions? Join us...

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