

Presentation of the EABC Position Paper
Jesus Miguel Sanz, EU Ambassador to Thailand
09:00am 30 March 2016, Anantara Hotel, Ballroom, Bangkok

Mr. Kiatchai Sophasiempong, Vice Minister of Finance;; dear colleagues of the diplomatic corps, Mr. Rolf-Dieter Daniel President of the EABC Boar; Mr. Pieter Bjork, Executive Director EABC; and members of the EABC consortium, and the business community and chambers of commerce, ladies and gentlemen.

I am very pleased to be here today for the presentation of the EABC Business position paper. Its purpose is to provide recommendations to our Thai partners on ways to improve Thailand's business environment and to make the Thai economy more competitive and attractive to foreign direct investment.

The support to the European operators is an integral part of the European Union Strategy 'Trade for All' made public by the Commission in October 2015.

Thailand is currently engaged in a large economic reform process. Thai companies play a significant role in international supply chains and therefore need to be competitive, sustainable and responsible in a fast changing global environment,

Several reforms undertaken by the Government have been welcomed by the business community. Let me briefly highlight some examples. The Board of Investment is promoting research and innovation by reorienting incentives to companies committed to moving up in the production value chain by investing in human skills and talent.

The recent Licensing Facilitation Act is introducing more transparency and agility in procedures and business environment in Thailand.

And we definitely welcome the firm steps that Thai government has undertaken to fight illegal, unsustainable and unregulated fishing and the commitment to combat unacceptable forms of work in the fishing and seafood industries. We support its extension to other sectors of the economy.

The Position Paper indicates though that there is room to further increasing the potential of Thailand as an attractive business destination.

The European industry reiterates its recommendation to deepen customs and tax reforms; to amend Intellectual Property Rights related legislation and to relax foreign ownership restrictions in the service sector.

I hope that our Thai friends will find the EABC 2016 Position Paper useful as a tool and encouragement to move these reforms forward. Their implementation will make Thailand more competitive and attractive to European investors and reinforce its centrality in the Asean Economic Community.

Let me congratulate the EABC for this excellent paper and for their work, always dedicated to intensify the ties between Europe and Thailand.

I thank you all for your kind attention

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