



Welcoming remarks EABC President – Dialogue with D-G DTN 20 August 2021.

Closing remarks at the end

Mrs Auramon Supthaweethum, Departmental officials and staff, EABC colleagues. It is really good to be with you today.

It has been some time since 2013 when we all thought we were about to embark on detailed negotiations for a much-anticipated Thailand – EU Free Trade Agreement. At that time, EABC played a central role in collecting, analysing, harmonising recommendations for what should be in an FTA .

Since then the world has changed somewhat. Pressures for economic recovery now are paramount, and expectations about new topics for inclusion have emerged. An FTA is expected to do more than it might have earlier. In more recent times we have had the privilege to have had dialogues and kept abreast of developments. I wrote to you Mrs Arumon early December 2019 for example with a high level perspective on what might be included in an FTA. We have looked at other EU FTAs in the region and make some indicative suggestions about chapter topics.

An FTA above all must be meaningful. That was true then as it is now.

EABC continues to be in a position to play a special role. We are not the representative of any government, but we do have a deep commitment to the Thai economy and society. Our members are European related companies including MNCs, SMEs and large local or regional firms typically with long-standing engagement in Thailand and in many cases the regional economy. We thus feel that we have some understanding of what might be useful for the Thai economy through an FTA from the perspective of businesses operating in Thailand and will be delighted to contribute this, including in assisting in analysis and distilling some I am sure complex issues.

I take a moment to introduce EABC colleagues.



Today Mr Bob Fox, Vice President will talk a bit more about EABC and also be our spokesperson for the Questions – we greatly look forward to learning from you, Mrs Auramon Supthaweethum.

We would be delighted to be able to keep in touch via a regular dialogue and look forward to constructive and exciting times ahead.

I now ask Mrs Auramon Supthaweethum that you introduce your team.

Thank you.

End

Closing remarks

Mrs Auramon Supthaweethum and colleagues.

Really – thank you for sharing your experience, perspectives and dialogue. With jointly developed and developing understandings and on-going dialogue, we do offer to continue to play a useful role.

We offer a small floral token and trust that this signifies good will and sincere appreciation for today's event and our on-going engagement.

Thank you and best wishes.