

2 September 2021

Mrs. Auramon Supthaweethum
Director-General
Department of Trade Negotiations
Ministry of Commerce
563 Nonthaburi 1 Rd., Amphur Muang,
Nonthaburi 1100

By email

Dear Mrs Auramon

Dialogue between the Department of Trade Negotiations and EABC about a possible EU-Thailand FTA

On behalf of the European Association for Business and Commerce (EABC), we wish to express our sincere gratitude to you and participating representatives from the Department of Trade Negotiations for the follow-up meeting with EABC on EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement on Friday, 20 August 2021 via Zoom platform. The discussion during the session was not only informative but I believe showed the value of engagement, collaboration and dialogue. We strongly believe in the value of continual collaboration between EABC and the Department of Trade Negotiations in achieving the best possible mutually advantageous outcomes from a FTA.

In addition, EABC's board of directors and our working group chairs would like to show our appreciation for your commitment to accelerating progress and collaboration in a structured way on EU-Thailand FTA chapters. For your consideration, please find below a short summary of our discussion and proposed follow-up action:

- Your office provided information and insights into status, including Joint Understanding Document (JUD) with the EU should be finalized by end of 2021; appreciating that concluding an FTA may take say two years beyond that.
- EABC appreciated information on the current status of Thailand-EU FTA development. Stakeholder engagement is an essential in this stage to consolidate opinions and relevant study and EABC intends to strengthen existing efforts to work with local industry to see mutual benefits of an FTA.
- EABC will also be the focal point for collecting and collating requirements and recommendations from the European business community

The EABC appreciates your kind consideration and welcomes further dialogue. We would like to propose three avenues, which were referred to in the 20 August dialogue.

- (i) A regular consultation and engagement about overall status – we could suggest initially a short meeting (max one hour), quarterly.
- (ii) For any specific or ad hoc developments perhaps you might designate say two officers as contact points. From the EABC side we propose Operations Director Dr. Charanya Nopnukulvisid director@eabc-thailand.org mobile: 063-982-6826 supported by Vice President Mr Bob Fox as needed.

(iii) Workshops on specific topic areas. We do see EABC being able to play a useful role in seeking to identify and achieve better understanding about some issues towards resolution, and to show current business practice and aspirations. Initially these as being IPR, Digital Economy and connectivity, Health Care & Pharma. We would be pleased to learn more.

It will be our greatest pleasure and honor to continue this dialogue in the most meaningful and useful ways possible.

Kindly accept the assurance of our highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,



Jan Eriksson

President