

EABC TOP SET

The Top Set (19) reflects EABC's policy recommendations and issues with the greatest need and which are considered to have most impact. No suggestion is implied to downplay or exclude policy recommendation in the European Business Position Paper some of which are not included here.

- **ECONOMIC RECOVERY** with **Business Continuity Support** focused on sustaining viable businesses, avoiding mass unemployment and unnecessary business failure. In addition to soft loans, direct grants are needed.
- **Border opening** build on safe measures, may be based on being 'fully vaccinated' and on testing; group and personal hygiene practices. Avoid creating divides. Must include short skills, business people and tourists; away from 'zero' mindset to 'safe and manageable'.
- **EU-TH FTA** Engagement on contributions for desired outcomes in the FTA including reforms; market access, connectivity; EABC as collection point and expert group. Support sought from local businesses.
- **Doing Business Easily** – faster reforms in removing unnecessary regulation. Fast Track Regulatory Reform (including Digitalisation and Guillotine) needs budget support, real implementation. Use new benchmarks after demise of World Bank index.
- **Service sector liberalization** – removal of impediments to services sector engagement; lift foreign equity limits and including market access, hiring skills; remove impediments such as Foreign Dominance Notification. FBA and 39 professions barriers are relevant.
- **Being Digital** – (i) Whole-of-Government plan for **all** agencies, with commonly agreed architecture and interoperability across agencies. SSO. DGA as single driver and co-ordinator. (ii) Digitalisation of businesses. (iii) Digital skills including digital literacy.
- **Automotive Road Map** Future Mobility– connectivity/smart city; support clean air initiative including EV; stimulate programs for domestic car sales, continuation to increase road safety; clarity on EU5/EU6 introduction for Thailand.
- **Energy security and sustainability** supporting multi-source renewables target of 30% by 2037. 2018 PDP renewables target low
- **SMEs:** Reduction of regulatory overhead, access to finance especially as part of economic recovery, support for digitalization; promote Doing Business Easily.
- **Rule of Law respect.** Good Regulatory Practices including effective consultation in law making, better quality of laws, workability and fair enforcement; and a trusted law reform process. Regulatory Impact Assessment Act useful.
- **Anti Corruption** – effective reduction in corrupt practices; real effective means with public/private engagement. Organic Act is useful to support Internal Controls. Whistleblower protection and witness protection.
- **Foreign participation in procurement;** a fully costed **standardized business case** analysis to allow fair comparisons and show the value of European infrastructure and knowhow.

- **Work Permit and Visa** – major reforms in supporting easy and effective skill mobility and reduction of massive overhead, de-duplicate and harmonise, change ‘work’ definition etc. Digitalisation is mandatory. SMART VISA type approach as the norm for all skilled professions. LTR may be a distraction. A European/ASEAN version of ABTC.
- **An efficient intellectual property enforcement framework** better to address online trademark and copyright infringements and improve consumer safety by strengthening border control for goods.
- **Healthcare resilience and sustainability** through sustainable healthcare financing and strengthening regulatory ecosystems to embrace innovation, technology, digital health transformation and to enhance investment attractiveness for innovative research and developments in the region
- **Educational reforms** to support greater applied R&D, tertiary-level collaboration with world-class institutions; primary and secondary changes to support the development of enquiring minds, critical thinking and other skills. Not just matching skills to workplace demand. Innovation as a norm. Reskilling for economic recovery.
- **Free movement of goods** via customs reforms also to support transit goods cost reduction and efficiency enhancement.
- **An inclusive EEC** which is also attractive to SMEs and larger unlisted companies. A virtual EEC where physical presence is not always required, but being in an ecosystem or supply chain is.
- **A greener post pandemic Thailand, which achieves Thailand 4.0** together; build in not bolt on BCG and SDG initiatives and better business actions via ESG.

Glossary

ABTC APEC Business Travel Card.

BCG Bio/Circular/Green economy; government policy from Jan 2021; promoted by BOI.

ESG Environment, Social, Governance. Cost of capital reduces with effective ESG policies.

EU5 and EU6 European Commission regulations to restrict emissions from petrol and diesel

DGA Digital Government Development Agency

FBA Foreign Business Act

LTR Long Term Residents proposal to attract the wealthy; does not address WP&V issues.

PDP Power Development Plan issued by Ministry of Energy. Most recent 2018, published 2019. Being replaced by the Thailand Power Development Plan 2012-2030.

SDG UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals www.sdg.un.org/goals

SSO Single Sign On. Sign onto digital government system once only to access all agencies.