



# Progress and Impact of Thailand – EU FTA

NETHERLANDS–THAI BUSINESS  
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# Thailand – EU Trade Relations

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- 4th Trade Partner for Thailand Following China  
US and Japan/ 28th Trade Partner for the EU
- Total Trade in Goods  
2024 - € 41,880 Mil.  
2025 (January-June) - € 21,998 Mil.  
6.14% increase from 2024



# Thailand – EU Trade Relations

## EU – Import

Computer parts and components, Gems and Jewelries, Rubber products, Automobile, parts and components

## Thailand – Import

Machineries and parts, Medical and Scientific Devices, Chemical products, Auto parts and components

## ■ Foreign Direct Investment

EU is the 2nd largest investor in Thailand after Japan in 2023 with € 24.9 bil. of FDI while Thailand invest 5.6 bil. in the EU

# Thailand – EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

## Background

- ❑ Started out as ASEAN – EU FTA back in May 2007
  - ❑ Had 7 rounds of negotiations.
  - ❑ Lacking in substantive progress due to the differences in the level of development between some ASEAN member states and the EU, both sides agreed to suspend the negotiation in 2009.
- ❑ The EU took different approach, and started Bilateral Negotiations with individual ASEAN member states.
  - ❑ The negotiation with Thailand started in 2013.
  - ❑ After 4 rounds of negotiations, a difficult circumstance prompted the EU to suspend the negotiation in 2014.
- ❑ With clearer Political Roadmap and the election, in October 2019 the EU revived relations with Thailand at all levels.
  - ❑ After the scoping exercise, the FTA Negotiation was relaunched in March 2023.

# Thailand – EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

BASED ON THE STUDY OF THE INSTITUTE OF FUTURE STUDIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (IFD), ENGAGED BY DTN WHICH PUBLISHED IN 2023, INDICATIVE BENEFITS OF THAILAND – EU FTA:

- **The level of total trade between Thailand and the EU could rise as much as 3%.**
- **Expected higher market access**
  - For Thai products such as automobiles and parts, garments, electronics, rubber, food and processed food products, machinery and parts
  - EU products such as chemical products, dairy products and pharmaceuticals are expected to gain more market access into Thailand as well as other services such as financial and insurance, telecommunication and environmental.
- **Investment is expected to benefit to the tune of 2.74 % per year.**
- **Expand global supply chain for both sides including Critical Raw Materials.**
- **Thai Industrials and Environmental standards expected to improve, level the playing fields.**

# Thailand – EU Strategic Importance/ Economic Security

- ❑ The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (**PCA**) between the EU and Thailand covering political dialogue, trade, climate, human rights, science, and more was signed in **December 2022**
- ❑ Provisionally applied since **October 2024** and has solidified **political and strategic alignment** between the two sides.
- ❑ The conclusion of the FTA would strengthen the tie between both parties even further, where the EU emphasises on **sustainable trade** pushing for rules on labour rights, **environmental protection**, and **climate goals**.
- ❑ Thailand is a **major producer of agricultural goods** (rubber, rice, seafood, sugar), making it central to the EU's food and supply chain security.
- ❑ the EU sees Thailand as a partner in areas like **climate change, human rights, maritime security, and digital innovation**.
- ❑ **Confirm the key importance of the Indo-Pacific region for the EU trade agenda, paving the way for deeper trade ties with one of the largest economies in South-East Asia and further strengthening the EU's strategic engagement with this fast-growing region.**

# Progress and current status

## ❑ 6 rounds of negotiations so far...

**(1) Sep 2023**

**(2) Jan 2024**

**(3) June 2024**

**(4) Nov 2024** > Chapters agreed in principle: Good Regulatory Practices / Transparency

**(5) Apr 2025** > Chapters agreed in principle: Customs and Trade Facilitation (CTF) / Sustainable Food Systems (SFS)

**(6) June 2025** > Chapters agreed in principle: Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) / Trade in Sustainable Development (TSD) and SMEs

**(7) Sep 2025** > ?

# Thailand – EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

## Timeline

**Round 8  
Thailand  
TBC**



**Round 9  
Brussels  
TBC**



**Expected  
conclusion  
2026**



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