Basic information

2018/0093M(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	Procedure completed
EU/Singapore Free Trade Agreement Accompanying procedure 2018/0093(NLE) **Subject** 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations **Geographical area** Singapore	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
INTA International Trade	MARTIN David (S&D)	16/05/2018
	Shadow rapporteur KELLY Seán (PPE) KAMALL Syed (ECR) TREMOSA I BALCELLS Ramon (ALDE) MINEUR Anne-Marie (GUE/NGL) JADOT Yannick (Verts/ALE) BEGHIN Tiziana (EFDD)	

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Trade and Economic Security	MALMSTRÖM Cecilia

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
05/07/2018	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/09/2018	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/01/2019	Vote in committee		

29/01/2019	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0048/2019	Summary
12/02/2019	Debate in Parliament		
13/02/2019	Decision by Parliament	T8-0089/2019	Summary
13/02/2019	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/02/2019	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2018/0093M(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Motion for a resolution under consent procedure
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	Accompanying procedure 2018/0093(NLE)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 107-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/8/13721

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE627.753	11/10/2018	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE630.464	13/11/2018	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0048/2019	29/01/2019	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0089/2019	13/02/2019	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2019)327	17/07/2019	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

EU/Singapore Free Trade Agreement

2018/0093M(NLE) - 13/02/2019 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 431 votes to 189, with 52 abstentions, a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Singapore.

This is the first bilateral trade agreement concluded between the EU and an ASEAN member state and an important stepping stone towards the final objective of a region-to-region free trade agreement (FTA).

Within the ASEAN region, Singapore is by far the EU's largest partner, with EU-Singapore trade worth more than EUR 50 billion annually. More than 10 000 European companies have their regional offices in Singapore.

According to the economic impact analysis of the EU-Singapore FTA conducted by the European Commission in 2013, Singapore's GDP could increase by 0.94%, or EUR 2.7 billion, and the EU's GDP by EUR 550 million.

Parliament stressed the economic and strategic importance of the agreement signed on 19 October 2018 and highlighted the following points:

- Singapore had already removed most of its tariffs on EU products and that this agreement will eliminate the few remaining ones completely as of its entry into force. Singapore will remove certain measures that may constitute barriers to trade, such as double safety tests in cars and car parts and electronics, which will simplify the export of goods by EU businesses to Singapore;

- the FTA will grant EU companies better access to the Singapore services market such as in financial, telecommunications, engineering, architectural, maritime transport and postal services;

- the agreement shall ensure better market access under this agreement to Singapore's public procurement market as compared to under the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA), social and environmental criteria should also be taken into account when awarding public procurement contracts;

- Singapore agreed to set up a GI registration system which will protect around 190 EU geographical indications, with the possibility of adding more at a later stage;

- Singapore's commitment is to keep zero duties on agri-food products, and the putting in place of a system for certifying EU meat-producing establishments seeking to export to Singapore;

- the agreement recognises the right of Member States at all levels to define and provide public services and does not prevent governments from bringing any privatised service back into the public sector;

- the agreement safeguards the EU's right to maintain and apply its own standards to all goods and services sold in the EU and therefore that all imports from Singapore must respect EU standards. EU standards should never be considered as trade barriers and the importance of promoting these standards at global level is stressed.

Parliament stressed the importance of a value-based and responsible trade policy and the need to promote sustainable development. Singapore is called on to further engage with the ILO with a view to progressing towards full alignment with their content and ultimately pursuing their ratification within a reasonable timeframe.

Lastly, the Commission was called on to make good use of the general review clause of the agreement as soon as possible in order to strengthen the enforceability of labour and environmental provisions, including among the various enforcement methods consideration of a sanctions-based mechanism as a last resort.

EU/Singapore Free Trade Agreement

2018/0093M(NLE) - 29/01/2019 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by David MARTIN (S&D, UK) containing a motion for a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Singapore.

This is the first bilateral trade agreement concluded between the EU and an ASEAN member state and an important stepping stone towards the final objective of a region-to-region free trade agreement (FTA).

Within the ASEAN region, Singapore is by far the EU's largest partner, with EU-Singapore trade worth more than EUR 50 billion annually. More than 10 000 European companies have their regional offices in Singapore.

Members welcomed the signing of the FTA on 19 October 2018 after a long delay in bringing forward the agreement for ratification. They also welcomed Singapore's continued engagement despite this delay and called for the swift entry into force of the agreement once it has been ratified by Parliament.

The report noted that Singapore had already removed most of its tariffs on EU products and that this agreement will eliminate the few remaining ones completely as of its entry into force. Singapore will remove certain measures that may constitute barriers to trade, such as double safety tests in cars and car parts and electronics, which will simplify the export of goods by EU businesses to Singapore.

The FTA will grant EU companies better access to the Singapore services market such as in financial, telecommunications, engineering, architectural, maritime transport and postal services, and that such liberalisation follows a 'positive list' approach.

Members welcomed the fact that Singapore agreed to set up a GI registration system which will protect around 190 EU geographical indications, with the possibility of adding more at a later stage.

They stressed that the agreement safeguards the EU's right to maintain and apply its own standards to all goods and services sold in the EU and therefore that all imports from Singapore must respect EU standards. EU standards should never be considered as trade barriers and the importance of promoting these standards at global level is stressed.

The importance of a value-based and responsible trade policy and the need to promote sustainable development was also stressed by Members.

Lastly, the Commission was called on to make good use of the general review clause of the agreement as soon as possible in order to strengthen the enforceability of labour and environmental provisions, including among the various enforcement methods consideration of a sanctions-based mechanism as a last resort.