

Background note from DG AGRI
EU-SINGAPORE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

[24/11/2014]

EU-SINGAPORE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (Negotiation Concluded)

1. Parties and regional factors

- Bilateral negotiations between EU and Singapore. Singapore was the first ASEAN country with whom EU launched bilateral negotiations after a region to region agreement failed.
- Singapore is one of the 10 members of ASEAN.
Singapore participates in the TPP negotiations; already had a bilateral Agreement with the US.

2. Dates of negotiation

- Negotiations were launched in December 2010 and were concluded at political level in December 2012 (except for the Chapter on investments, which was concluded in October 2014). Agreement was initialled in September 2013.
- Timing for signature to be determined.

3. Chapters closed at technical level

- All

4. Particular issues in negotiation - agricultural trade

- Market access was not a key issue given that Singapore has only marginal agricultural sector and imports were already duty free.
- GIs protection was the key issue at stake for the EU, Singapore having a long trade mark tradition, no GIs to protect and an agreement with the US. Principles (e.g. high level of protection, register) are settled in the Agreement but EU GIs contained in a short list will have to pass new Singapore legislation on GIs. Quantitative and qualitative criteria were agreed to give sufficient legal certainty as regards final outcome.