

*For Immediate Release*

**EU-SINGAPORE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WILL APPLY TO THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING BREXIT TRANSITION PERIOD**

1. The Singapore Government notes the decision by the United Kingdom (UK) to withdraw from the European Union (EU) on 31 January 2020. The EU and the UK have informed Singapore and their other trading partners of a transition period from 1 February 2020 to 31 December 2020<sup>1</sup>. During this period, the UK will be treated functionally as an EU Member State and remain a party to EU international agreements.
2. The EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA), which entered into force on 21 November 2019, will continue to apply to the UK during the transition period. Singapore and the UK are also working on an agreement to maintain trade continuity after the transition period ends and the EUSFTA no longer applies to the UK.
3. Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing said, “The UK and Singapore share robust and longstanding economic ties. For Singapore companies doing business with the UK, the transition period will provide certainty for continued trade between Singapore and the UK. We will continue our close cooperation with the UK to broaden and deepen our bilateral economic relations for the future.”
4. Singapore companies that are interested to find out more about the EUSFTA may contact Enterprise Singapore at [enquiry@enterprisesg.gov.sg](mailto:enquiry@enterprisesg.gov.sg).

**ANNEX A: EU’s notification to Singapore on the Brexit transition period**  
**ANNEX B: Singapore’s response to the EU’s notification on the Brexit transition period**

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**  
**30 January 2020**

For media queries, please contact:

Janice Ong  
Senior Assistant Director  
Corporate Communications Division  
Tel: 6332 8613  
Email: [Janice\\_ONG@mti.gov.sg](mailto:Janice_ONG@mti.gov.sg)

---

<sup>1</sup> Under the terms of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement, the EU and UK can decide by July 2020 to extend the transition period for up to one or two years.

**ANNEX A: EU's notification to Singapore on the Brexit transition period**



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
DELEGATION TO SINGAPORE

DELSGP – D (2020) 006

The Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Singapore presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, Protocol Directorate, and has the honour to transmit the present Note Verbale on the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

Furthermore, for all conventions/agreements/arrangements to which the European Union or the European Atomic Energy Community is a signatory, party or participant, and for which your Government is the depositary or chair, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Singapore kindly requests that your Government bring the Annex to the present Note Verbale to the attention of the other parties or participants to these conventions/agreements/arrangements.

The Note Verbale has been endorsed by the Member States of the Union, including the United Kingdom.

The Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Singapore avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, Protocol Directorate, the assurances of its highest consideration.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Protocol Directorate  
Tanglin  
SINGAPORE

**Annex to the Note Verbale on the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community**

1. On 29 March 2017, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the "United Kingdom") notified the European Council of the United Kingdom's intention to withdraw from the European Union ("Union") and the European Atomic Energy Community ("Euratom") in accordance with Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. On 22 March 2019, the European Council decided in agreement with the United Kingdom to extend the period provided for in Article 50(3) of the Treaty on European Union until 12 April 2019. On 10 April 2019, the European Council decided in agreement with the United Kingdom to extend the period provided for in Article 50(3) of the Treaty on European Union until 31 October 2019. On 29 October 2019, the European Council decided in agreement with the United Kingdom to extend the period provided for in Article 50(3) of the Treaty on European Union until 31 January 2020. The United Kingdom will therefore cease to be a Member State of the European Union and of Euratom on 1 February 2020.
2. On 24 January 2020, the Union and Euratom, and the United Kingdom, in accordance with Article 50, paragraph 2, of the Treaty on European Union, signed an Agreement setting out the arrangements for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union and Euratom ("Withdrawal Agreement")<sup>1</sup>. The Withdrawal Agreement will enter into force on 1 February 2020, subject to its prior ratification by the United Kingdom and conclusion by the Union and Euratom.
3. In order to address the specific situation of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union and Euratom, the Withdrawal Agreement provides for a time-limited transition period during which, save certain very limited exceptions, Union law shall be applicable to and in the United Kingdom and that any reference to Member States in Union law, including as implemented and applied by Member States, shall be understood as including the United Kingdom.
4. The Union and Euratom, and the United Kingdom have agreed that Union law within the meaning of the Withdrawal Agreement encompasses international agreements concluded by the Union (or Euratom), or by Member States acting on behalf of the Union (or Euratom), or by the Union (or Euratom) and its Member States jointly.
5. Subject to timely ratification and conclusion of the Withdrawal Agreement, the Union and Euratom notify parties to the international agreements referred to in point 4 above that, during the transition period, the United Kingdom is treated as a Member State of the Union and of Euratom for the purposes of these international agreements.
6. It is understood that the principles set out in this Annex also extend to international instruments and arrangements without legally binding force entered into by the Union or

<sup>1</sup> The text of the Withdrawal Agreement can be consulted in the Official Journal of the European Union of 12 November 2019, C 384 I, p. 1.

Euratom and to international agreements referred to in point 4 above which are provisionally applied.

7. The provisions relating to the transition period are laid down in Part Four (Articles 126 to 132) of the Withdrawal Agreement, to be read in conjunction with the other relevant provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement, in particular its Part One.

8. The transition period starts on 1 February 2020 and ends on 31 December 2020, but the Withdrawal Agreement foresees the possibility of adopting a single decision extending the transition period for up to 24 months. In the event of an extension, the Union and Euratom will communicate this by a further Note Verbale.

9. At the end of the transition period, the United Kingdom will no longer be covered by the international agreements referred to in points 4 and 6 above. This is without prejudice to the status of the United Kingdom in relation to multilateral agreements to which it is a party in its own right.

**ANNEX B: Singapore's response to the EU's notification on the Brexit transition period**



MFA/EUR/00032/2020

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore presents its compliments to the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Singapore and has the honour to refer to the latter's Note no. DELSGP – D (2020) 006 dated 29 January 2020.

The Ministry has the honour to confirm that the Government of the Republic of Singapore agrees, for the duration of the time-limited transition period provided under the Agreement setting out the arrangements for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union and Euratom, to treat the United Kingdom as a Member State of the Union and of Euratom for the purposes of international agreements concluded with Singapore by the Union (or Euratom), or by Member States acting on behalf of the Union (or Euratom), or by the Union (or Euratom) and its Member States jointly, and therefore the Delegation's Note and this reply constitute an agreement between the EU and Singapore with effect from today.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Singapore the assurances of its highest consideration.

SINGAPORE  
29 January 2020



Delegation of the European Union  
Singapore