

**For Immediate Release**

**SINGAPORE AND FRANCE AFFIRM INTENT TO MAINTAIN SUPPLY  
CHAIN CONNECTIVITY FOR ESSENTIAL FOOD SUPPLIES AMIDST  
COVID-19**

1. Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing and Minister of Agriculture and Food of the French Republic Didier Guillaume held a videoconference today. Following the meeting, they issued a Joint Ministerial Statement affirming their common intent to maintain open and connected supply chains for essential food supplies amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Under the Joint Ministerial Statement, Singapore and France will work together to ensure that transport and logistics links remain open to facilitate the flow of essential food and agricultural products. This includes working with relevant service providers in air and sea freight. Both countries will also facilitate business partnerships and collaborations between Singapore and French food companies, importers and distributors.
3. Mr Chan said, "Singapore and France are strategic partners. Our economic relations are growing stronger, enhanced by the entry-into-force of the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) in November last year. Beyond enhancing bilateral trade in agri-food products, there is much we can do with French partners in areas such as agri-food technology, food safety standards, and for French agri-food exporters to use Singapore as a platform to serve the rest of Southeast Asia. This Joint Ministerial Statement will strengthen our partnership amidst COVID-19. It also demonstrates our intent to maintain open and connected supply chains and facilitate the smooth flow of essential supplies critical to the well-being of our people and businesses."

**Ministry of Trade and Industry  
8 June 2020**

**Annex A: Photo and Caption**

**Annex B: Joint ministerial statement by the Republic of Singapore and the French Republic affirming their intention to ensuring supply chain connectivity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic**

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**ANNEX A: PHOTO AND CAPTION**



Caption: Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing at a videoconference meeting with Minister of Agriculture and Food of the French Republic Didier Guillaume, accompanied by Singapore Ambassador to France Zainal Mantaha and French Ambassador to Singapore Marc Abensour.

**ANNEX B: JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AND THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AFFIRMING THEIR INTENTION TO ENSURING SUPPLY CHAIN CONNECTIVITY AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

1. The COVID-19 pandemic is a serious global crisis. As part of the collective response to combat Covid-19, the Minister of Agriculture and Food of the French Republic and the Minister for Trade and Industry of the Republic of Singapore (the Ministers below) will maintain open and connected supply chains for essential food supplies.
2. The Ministers recognise that it is in their mutual interest to ensure that transport and delivery links remain open, including via air and sea freight, to facilitate the flow of essential food and agricultural products, which is important for food security.
3. The Ministers will facilitate contacts between the food companies, importers, and distributors of their two countries and encourage them to find opportunities for business partnerships and collaborations.
4. The Ministers will work with relevant service providers in respect of the air and sea freight needs for the supply of food and agricultural products under the framework of this joint statement.

**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,  
HON DIDIER GUILLAUME**

**MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SINGAPORE,  
HON CHAN CHUN SING**

**8 JUNE 2020**