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Directorate-General for Trade

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TREATI – WORK PROGRAMME AND PROGRESS REPORT

BACKGROUND

Recognising the need for an overall strategic direction defining our relations with ASEAN, the Commission issued a Communication on “A New Partnership with South East Asia” in July 2003. A key element of the policy to enhance political and economic relations with SE Asia was the Trans Regional EU-ASEAN Trade Initiative (TREATI). TREATI was conceived as framework aimed at achieving practical improvements in EU-ASEAN trade, by strengthening economic relations with ASEAN and supporting ASEAN’s own integration ambitions.

TREATI has established a mechanism for regulatory co-operation intended to improve trade and investment flows, address certain bilateral market access problems having a regional dimension, and foster understanding and co-operation in areas of mutual interest, including at multilateral level under the WTO. Co-operation under TREATI is a mutually agreed activity, not based upon a formal agreement. The approach is to address economic issues on a region to region basis, taking best advantage of the resource constraints on both sides, the commonality of many trade issues between ASEAN countries, and the benefits of economies of scale.

The fundamental concepts and objectives of the Trans-Regional EU-ASEAN Trade Initiative (TREATI) were initially defined by ASEAN Trade Ministers during their consultations with the EU Trade Commissioner in Laos in April 2003. In August 2003, ASEAN and EC officials agreed that the initial focus for TREATI activities would be given to eight priority issues - *trade facilitation, investment facilitation and promotion, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, industrial product standards and technical barriers to trade, Intellectual Property Rights, and trade and the environment as well as tourism and forestry products.*

The AEM-EC Consultations in January 2004 reviewed a preliminary set of issues and activities in order to define initial terms of reference for each priority area. Ministers welcomed these ideas and decided to consult their experts further on the details. They agreed on a roadmap for TREATI activities in 2004. The SEOM-EC Consultations held in Bangkok in March 2004 discussed ASEAN feedback on the proposals for each priority sector. The terms of reference were revised accordingly.

The decision of ASEAN to create an Economic Community through accelerated integration in priority sectors led to reconsideration of the original priorities identified for TREATI, in order to refocus attention more closely on specific sectors where ASEAN is working on its own integration. As a result, ASEAN Ministers agreed in September 2004 to give priority to co-operation on *sanitary and phytosanitary standards in agricultural and seafood products, on technical standards for electronics, and on wood-based*

industries, as well as cross-sectoral co-operation on trade facilitation and investment. The TREATI work programme thus complements and reinforces ASEAN's own activities, based upon the roadmaps for ASEAN priority sectors.

Vietnam has accepted the role of co-ordinator on behalf of ASEAN for TREATI.

The challenge is to demonstrate an ability to tackle real barriers to EU-ASEAN trade and, at the same time, make a positive contribution to ASEAN's internal integration process. We need to establish a clear articulation between bilateral and regional economic co-operation activities which is mutually supportive without duplication. Moreover, both the EU and ASEAN must deal with many competing priorities and devote sufficient resources to make TREATI a success.

RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

It should be recognised that the results of regulatory co-operation are perhaps more intangible in nature and less easily identifiable or quantifiable than the achievements of specific projects. Nonetheless, important benefits have been achieved through TREATI which are worth highlighting.

OVERALL BENEFITS

- ASEAN business participants are given the opportunity to air any grievances as well as explain the impact of certain EU policies directly with officials from the European Union who are directly responsible for certain policies.
- EU and ASEAN Officials are able to communicate proactively with each other as well as industry representatives and raise awareness in advance regarding forthcoming policy initiatives which often may have a significant potential impact on trade interests in each region, allowing them to correct misunderstandings, provide clarification, and reassure the concerns of foreign manufacturers.
- It is possible to explain that certain legislative proposals are not a deliberate attempt to create trade barriers, as many believe. Although there may be disagreement with regard to high level of protection required by EU citizens, third country manufacturers are able to have a better appreciation of the impact of legislation on EU manufacturers. While the impact on foreign trade may be negative in some aspects, there are sometimes areas where foreign exporters might be better placed to benefit at the expense of EU manufacturers.
- EU officials learn at first hand the practical consequences of their policies on third countries. This encourages them to consider potential flexibilities or modifications in order to reduce negative consequences without affecting health or safety.

ANNEX I

AREAS AND ISSUES TO WHICH TREATI HAS CONTRIBUTED

1. MODIFICATIONS TO EU FOOD SAFETY POLICY

In this area, several developments are worth highlighting. Benefiting from the discussions during the first TREATI workshop on food safety, the EU took into account a number of the issues raised by ASEAN exporters regarding trade with third countries in its review of the regulatory framework for residues.

Decision 2005/34/EC of 11 January 2005, OJ No L 016 of 20/01/2005, p. 61) specifies new harmonised standards for testing for certain residues in products of animal origin imported from third countries. Under this new risk management approach, the isolated detection of residues of a prohibited substance below the relevant MRPL no longer prevents the products concerned from entering the food chain, although such cases still must be documented and reported, and the European Commission will, in cases pointing to a pattern of misuse of a particular substance, address the issue with the third country in question.

This new legislation attempts to address the concerns that have been expressed about the apparent inconsistencies in controls for the presence of residues in products of animal origin imported from third countries. Previously, the European Union considered any amount of the substance found in food in question to be non-compliant with EU legislation. Furthermore, the legislation also defines a process for handling consignments which test positive at or above the MRPL and which are considered non-compliant with EU legislation. These consignments may either be destroyed or re-dispatched outside the EU.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EU TRAINING PROGRAMME

Additionally, this food safety seminar confirmed the need and desire on the part of third country officials and exporters to receive comprehensive information regarding EU policy and practice in this important sector, contributing to the establishment of the EU's *Better training for safer food initiative*.

This new initiative of the Commission was launched in 2005, aimed at developing an EU training strategy in the areas of food law, feed law, animal health and animal welfare rules, as well as plant health rules. The training is designed for all staff of competent authorities of Member States involved in official control activities so as to keep them up-to-date with all aspects of Community law and ensure that controls are carried out in a more uniform, objective and adequate manner in all Member States.

Recognising that third countries and in particular developing countries also need to familiarize with EU import requirements and with the possibility of EU support, training organised for Member States in the EU is open to participants from third countries and specific training sessions are also organised locally for third countries. The aim is to create an equal level playing field for all food businesses, enhance trade of safe food, and ensure fair trade with third countries, and in particular, for developing countries.

3. IMPROVEMENTS IN TRANSPARENCY AND INFORMATION FOR SMEs

The current contents of the EU's Export Helpdesk have taken into account the needs and requirements identified during discussions with ASEAN industry, particularly with regard to the information on SPS requirements and requirements for SMEs.

The Helpdesk is an online service provided by the European Commission to facilitate market access for developing countries to the European Union. Industry in ASEAN countries are heavy users of this free and friendly service for exporters, importers, trade associations and governments, which provides the following:

- *Information on EU and Member States' import requirements as well as internal taxes applicable to products;*
- *Information allowing exporters to take maximum advantage of the EU's preferential import regimes benefiting developing countries;*
- *Trade data for the EU and its individual Member States which can help to establish whether or not a particular EU market is worth targeting;*
- *A market place where exporters in developing countries can find trading partners and establish contacts with importers from the EU;*
- *Links to other authorities and international organisations involved in practical trade operations and trade promotion.*
- *The possibility to lodge detailed information requests about real-life situations encountered by exporters.*

The Helpdesk facilities will continue to be developed, including through the addition of new language versions.

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ANNEX II

TREATI ACTIVITIES 2004-2006

Activities in 2004

a) TREATI Regional Workshop for Business

A workshop was organised for regional EU and ASEAN business representatives (mainly Chambers of Commerce) to present the concepts and objectives behind TREATI, as well as to discuss the private sector perspective on possible activities in the priority areas of trade facilitation, investment, technical barriers to trade, and sanitary and phytosanitary standards. The aim of this workshop was to encourage the closer involvement of the private sector by informing business representatives at an early stage so that they could already express their ideas and concerns, and provide input into the definition and implementation of future actions. Both SEOM Leaders and European Commission officials participated in the workshop.

Business representatives felt that efforts should focus particularly on assisting SMEs and industry to understand the regulations of importing countries and to enhance market access. In order to achieve this, activities aimed at informing SMEs and industry would be very helpful. SPS in particular is a key area for ASEAN interests, since agricultural exports are important for many ASEAN countries and there have been a number of recent difficulties having an impact on EU-ASEAN trade. Business also emphasised the need to establish consultative fora involving representatives from the public and private sectors of the EU and ASEAN, in order to share information proactively and address issues as and when they arise, acting as both early warning and rapid alert systems for problems.

b) Safety First - TREATI Regional Workshop on Food Safety

A highly successful regional workshop on EU food safety policy and exporting food products to the EU was also organised as a TREATI activity in May 2004. The workshop took place in Bangkok and involved more than 200 participants representing local businesses in the region, as well as officials, academics, and representatives from food testing laboratories. Separate workshops on different product sectors including poultry, fruit and vegetables, and fishery products took place, and a comprehensive information pack on EU food safety policy aimed at exporters was distributed. Feedback obtained during the workshop has helped to identify priorities for future SPS activities in the region.

The participants were very positive in their assessment of the seminar. ASEAN business participants had the opportunity to discuss important issues regarding their exports directly with regulators responsible for EU food safety policy. EU officials confirmed their willingness to examine a number of issues raised by ASEAN to see where certain flexibilities or modifications could be considered in order to reduce negative consequences on exporters without affecting safety. At the same time, the EU was able to communicate proactively with many ASEAN representatives and raise awareness in advance regarding forthcoming policy initiatives and their potential impact on trade. Participants also had a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of food safety officials in resolving problems.

Issues that were raised during the workshop included risk assessments and the precautionary principle, traceability of products and ingredients, rapid alert systems and how they can be exploited by EU importers/local exporters, CODEX and International Standards, destruction of unsafe food products, the role of consumers in establishing requirements for food safety, and ASEAN requirements for technical assistance. Participants identified a number of interesting areas for future seminars, such as an overview of EU rules and standards, EC-ASEAN co-operation in resolving problems, food testing requirements and methods, practical export experiences. EU food safety regulations, the food and feed hygiene package, and EU labelling requirements were the most important topics where more information was needed.

c) Regional TREATI seminar on the new chemicals policy (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals – REACH)

A workshop was held on 21 November 2004 in Singapore, involving approximately 50 local representatives from the Singaporean Government and industry, as well as other ASEAN countries. The main purpose was to provide information regarding the new REACH policy relating to chemicals, which in addition to chemical products is expected to have an impact on many other sectors, including the automotive industry and electronics. The workshop involved a series of informative presentations by representatives from the Directorates General for Environment and Trade of the European Commission, as well as EU and ASEAN industry representatives, including a panel debate.

On 25 November, another workshop concerning REACH took place, organised by the local EC Delegation together with the MTI in Manila. This workshop was extremely effective and well run, with more than 80 well-informed participants.

While the potential impact on Filipino manufacturers of REACH is unclear at this stage, however, there were concerns regarding manufacturers producing high volumes of fatty acids based on chemicals produced from coconuts, producers of articles containing chemicals, as well as SME manufacturers of local handicrafts such as leather goods. As with other ASEAN countries, the Philippines are net importers of EU chemical products which may be obliged to find other sources in the future if the costs of EU products increase and/or some EU manufacturers decide that manufacturing certain chemical products is no longer cost-effective. It was reassuring for them to learn that coconut oil, as a substance occurring in nature which has not been chemically modified, would be exempted from the scope of REACH. There were also reassurances provided on the relationship between food safety legislation and REACH (no double coverage) and the cosmetics directive.

Activities in 2005

a) Regional TREATI Trade Facilitation Workshop, Manila, 19-21 July 2005

The TREATI workshop on trade facilitation was held in Manila, Philippines from 19-21 July 2005. Representatives from ASEAN countries were present together with officials from the Directorates General for Trade and Customs of the European Commission, as well as the WCO, and selected industry representatives.

The workshop emphasised trade facilitation in terms of region to regional co-operation, pointing to the clear benefits that governments and businesses in a number of ASEAN countries are already reaping from ongoing reforms. Many ASEAN customs authorities have gone quite a long way in terms of their reforms and regional plans for integration, although still in the process of being implemented, are very ambitious.

The workshop also outlined key ASEAN interests in the field of Trade Facilitation and how follow-up actions should be shaped under **TREATI**.

- There was substantial interest in EU work to integrate the new EU Member States into the Customs Union and modernise customs procedures.
- There was considerable enthusiasm for exchanging experience on trade facilitation procedures notably the single window, and also e-customs, fast-track procedures, transparency, inter-agency co-operation and dialogue with business. There appears to be reasonable scope for comparison of EU and ASEAN systems (eg through benchmarking and development of a comparative matrix of existing arrangements), identification of best practice (eg covering simplification of procedures or tackling red tape) and discussion on the use of international standards. Inter-agency co-operation could be enhanced through exchange of best practice and trialling approaches such as development of cross-agency teams, performance measurement and establishment of service-level agreements. Examples of actions carried out with the new EU member states could also have wider relevance.
- In spite of the ASEAN's Single Window pilot project involving the Philippines and Thailand, ASEAN countries need to look beyond developing their own national systems and consider how these will be integrated into a regional framework.
- Better inter-agency co-operation is also likely to prove beneficial. Studies among the new EU MS at the time of accession indicated that delays and additional costs thought to be imposed by customs authorities were often the responsibility of other government agencies (health, food safety, standards, etc). There should be potential to work at regional level to introduce more coherent approaches to clearance of goods, which could be linked to development of fast-track mechanisms. There is a need to raise awareness of the importance of developing co-operation mechanisms with other arms of government. This is an area where the EU can potentially offer examples of best practice and case studies.

Further efforts are needed to work together with ASEAN to identify their needs and priorities in the field of Trade Facilitation, including in terms of possible technical assistance.

b) TREATI Investment Consultation between CCI and EU, 26 May 2005, Vientiane, Lao PDR

The first meeting of COM with ASEAN investment experts under the TREATI initiative was co-chaired by Indonesia, for the ASEAN side, and by the European Commission and allowed for an exchange of views on possible areas of co-operation in the investment area. All ASEAN countries were represented, and participants included mainly representatives from the authorities in charge of the investment boards and promotion activities in the region. The main objective was to improve the investment climate between the two regions so as to promote and encourage two-way investment, to drive

and support policy reform, and to ensure private sector involvement in these processes. Discussions were substantive with an encouraging focus on regulatory issues and there was a clear shared will to continue and develop the dialogue. The next meeting will aim to assess existing binding provisions on investment and possible future co-operation in this area.

The ASEAN Secretariat outlined how the region since 1987 had worked towards establishing an ASEAN investment area (AIA). The agreement established market access through national treatment of investors based on a list of exemptions and temporary exclusions (negative listing). In 2001, the agreement had been extended to cover services incidental to manufacturing, fishing, forestry and mining. The agreement follows a staged approach, whereby ASEAN countries have set individual timelines for phasing out exemptions – first for ASEAN investors and later starting in 2010 for all investors. The six older ASEAN members would meet tighter deadlines for completion of the investment area while the newer members (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) aim for 2020 for completion. The European Commission outlined the EU's approach on investment in agreements (Chile, Mercosur).

The presentations were followed by a general discussion on investment initiatives. It was suggested that the focus of work should include the barriers/irritants that industry had identified when making actual investments, including the consideration of these issues through case studies.

The European Union's Asia-Invest Programme was presented as a tool that, as well as supporting business partnerships, could be used for technical assistance and capacity building activities in the field of investment. A pan-ASEAN Partenariat event is being considered for 2007.

c) EU-ASEAN High Level Policy Dialogue on Economic Integration, Brunei, 15 June 2005

This was a highly successful first exchange of views on economic integration involving SEOM Leaders and an audience of 150 ASEAN officials. All countries were well represented and a number of sectoral experts involved in the process of ASEAN's own internal economic integration process were present.

The morning session was devoted to providing an historical perspective explaining the progress and key steps of the EU's experience, while the afternoon session explained the general principles allowing for the free movement of goods and services throughout the EU. The very interested audience generated a stimulating debate. There was a general consensus on the interest to pursue further dialogue with the EU, including a possible visit to Brussels to discuss certain issues in greater detail with experts.

The morning session focused on explaining the background to EU integration, including the launch phase in the aftermath of WW2 leading to the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community, then the establishment of a customs union, eventually followed by the creation of the Internal Market and the implementation of a single currency. It was emphasised that this process has involved two key directions from the outset:- the *development of functional economic integration* through the market and the *creation of an effective institutional setting* based upon the right of initiative of the Commission and decision-making by the Member States.

It was emphasised that the EU's experience should not be regarded as a prescription for others, recognising that the different situation prevailing within ASEAN would have

created different ambitions and a different track. The importance of firm political commitment and the critical role played by leaders at key points was also discussed. Emphasis was placed on the non-linear nature of EU progress towards regional integration, which while it has involved both sudden leaps forward as well as long periods of stagnation, has nonetheless been characterised by a lack of regression or backtracking.

Some of the key issues which were emphasised include - What possible institutional mechanisms were considered to implement economic integration apart from the Commission? How are EU decisions taken? How does the EU's customs union work in practice?

Activities in 2006

a) Regional TREATI Workshop on Trade in Wood Products, KL, 24-25 May 2006

The workshop was successfully held in Kuala Lumpur with the full support and participation of Malaysian Government. Discussions were lively and with widespread participation. Illegal logging was a key theme of the workshop, and export opportunities for ASEAN countries were discussed to a limited extent. A better balance should be achieved in follow-up workshops.

The workshop highlighted current trade in wood products between the EU and ASEAN, suggesting that ASEAN is moving away from simple log exports to exports of value-added processing and secondary processed products. At the same time, current EU consumption of timber still depends largely on intra-EU trade. EU-ASEAN trade in wood products is thus modest, but ASEAN has a growing share in value-added products. China is becoming a manufacturing powerhouse and the furniture factory of the world. As a result, trilateral trade flows emerge that reflect a trade pattern whereby ASEAN exports raw material to China, China transforms the raw material and exports the value added products to the EU.

Consumer demand in the EU for legal and sustainable timber is growing, while natural tropical forests are suffering losses, and in the last five years, world-wide plantations are accelerating. In response, EU Governments are putting in place procurement policies that aim to ensure that only legal timber is procured and the private sector (with the exception of the wood products manufacturers) are drafting codes of conduct, for which the pressure to enforce is increasing. Regional integration and harmonisation in wood products is increasing at the EU, East-Asia and ASEAN level.

Several important issues regarding trade in wood products were raised. Illegal logging makes up a significant portion of exports and distinguishing between legal and illegal timber is a cumbersome process. Currently, there is no a common definition of what constitutes legal timber. Statistical data on forestation and trade data are difficult to obtain, leading to discrepancies in trade figures on exports and imports of timber. LDCs are poorly integrated into trade in wood products. Solutions aimed at stopping the export of illegal timber are prone to implementation problems.

As the EU is a market moving towards legal and sustainable timber, the East Asia FLEG and the EU FLEGT Action Plan are important initiatives and a number of means of improving this initiative were discussed, including:-

- *Product coverage extension under the EU FLEGT Action Plan could be considered*
- *Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) between regions is a possibility: EU-East Asia or EU-ASEAN*
- *Complementarity needs to be sought between ASEAN and East-Asia, particularly to define legal timber*
- *FLEGT should be linked to existing procurement policies in the EU Member States*
- *Governments need to be encouraged to put public procurement policies into place that aim to ensure the procurement of legal timber*
- *The private sector should be encouraged to establish and notably enforce codes of conduct*
- *An international framework would need to be established that would be a forum for debate, data collection, enforcement co-operation and the development of an international tracking and licensing system*
- *East Asia FLEG will continue to work towards a common definition of legality, consider the introduction of national legislation on banning imports of illegal products, and reflect upon the introduction of revised public procurement policies*
- *Another option might be the use of criminal law to prohibit trade in illegal timber (cf. Lacey Act in the United States)*
- *Singapore demonstrated that national legislation such as the right to arrest a vessel might prove to be powerful incentive for shippers not to engage in transport of illegal timber*
- *Public and corporate purchasing officers need to be trained in distinguishing the merits of the various certification schemes.*

The problems and on-going activities in trade in wood-products should guide the agenda of the next TREATI seminar.

b) Regional TREATI Workshops on SPS Issues for Fishery Products, Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand 12-20 June 2006

A series of three regional workshops took place in Manila, Ho Chi Minh City and Bangkok. There was a very good turn out by participants and very active involvement, especially during the smaller break out sessions held on the second day. Presentations by local business and competent authorities were complementary to the presentations by EU experts which explained new EU legislation. A presentation on ASEAN harmonisation of legislation would have been useful.

The presentations highlighted developments in trade in fish and fishery products, including the growing consumer demand for safe food, the requirements for consumers for fewer additives, more freshness, no antibiotics where fish is becoming increasingly part of the consumer diet because of its healthy lifestyle connotations, the problems with food scares which have led to tightening of legislation and increased harmonisation, the new European Food Safety Authority and renewed risk analysis process, the growing trend for aquaculture and the stagnation of global wild fish resources.

ASEAN exporters identified a number of problems, highlighting issues such as the complicated legislation, leading to de facto trade barriers, the lack of harmonisation of legislation, the lack of harmonisation of controls both at entry points and post-marketing, the problems experienced by suppliers in meeting high standards (hygiene, environmental, GMP, GAP etc) imposed by the importers, the constant changes to legislation, the differences between EU laws and US and Japanese regulations, and a general lack of information.

The EU explained some of the solutions which are offered. In particular, the GSP and EBA preferences which help to boost the competitiveness of ASEAN's products with respect to other trading partners, the on-line Export Help Desk information source, the bilateral co-operation programmes such as ASIA Invest and the Asia Trust Fund, the co-operation to establish an ASEAN Rapid Alert System for Food, other European training events held in the region this year, ongoing efforts to increase harmonisation of border controls, and the corresponding need for increased ASEAN harmonisation initiatives.

Most countries requested increased co-operation and technical assistance in this area, greater harmonisation and more training. A follow-up event should focus on the bilateral export problems for both parties and integration aspects for the EU and ASEAN.

c) Regional TREATI Workshops on TBT Issues for Electrical and Electronic Products, Philippines, Malaysia, and Thailand, 26-30 June 2006

Another successful set of TREATI workshops which received high praise from participants regarding their content, particularly with regard to the information provided on the role of manufacturer's self-declaration of compliance and the RoHS and REACH requirements. The emphasis on providing practical information for an industry audience was very appropriate and much appreciated.

The participants in Manila were primarily local industry manufacturers of electrical and electronic equipment, many of whom were not currently exporting to the EU but had an interest in future export potential. There was a low existing level of knowledge and awareness of EU requirements. Much interest in the RoHS directive requirements due to its entry into force on 1 July 2006, specific concerns about the treatment of goods in transit and how customs officials/MS market surveillance authorities would handle these products, as well as on REACH.

In Kuala Lumpur, the representatives tended to be members of industry associations rather than the actual manufacturers, although the relevant ministries were also present to obtain information to be relayed to their constituencies. The audience was very well informed, so the presentations needed to go into much greater technical detail regarding the specific processes and procedures needed to comply with EU directives, as well as the details of market surveillance.

Two important issues were highlighted. The first key issue was the role of the manufacturers self-declaration of compliance for most directives relating to this sector, where most local industry associations had previously believed that expensive and complicated mandatory third party certification was required. The other main concern was how to achieve compliance with RoHS, where a detailed practical test case was presented as an example by the consultants responsible for the workshop.

The audience was enthusiastic and participative throughout, asking very technical questions which demonstrated their interest in the subject matter and existing good level

of knowledge. There was high praise regarding both the scope and content of the workshop.

d) EU-ASEAN Economic Integration Workshop, Brussels, 10-13 October 2006

This seminar was a follow-up to the first economic integration in 2005. The SEOM Leaders, responsible for defining ASEAN policy regarding economic integration, had expressed a strong interest in learning more from the EU's own experience. The seminar therefore focused on providing a historical and practical perspective on how the EU's economic integration had evolved and the specific actions and initiatives which had been implemented. More than 30 participants from all ASEAN countries were present, including all SEOM Leaders with the exception of the Philippines.

A number of former senior Commission officials made presentations which described how the internal market for goods and services had been created. ASEAN was particularly interested in the practical details of how the EU had established a customs union, as well as the functioning of the internal market, especially enforcement, where they were keen to learn more about SOLVIT, as well as the details of the Internal Market Scoreboard. At the same time, they also focused on services, and a presentation regarding the liberalisation of the financial services sector was much appreciated. ASEAN has highlighted that further dialogue regarding the liberalisation of services remains a high priority for future dialogues.

Member State representatives from Ireland and Estonia also participated, explaining how they had carried out the process of accession to the EU and the benefits of joining. ASEAN demonstrated a particular interest in the case of Estonia, appreciating the relevance of the transition from a centrally planned to market economy to the situation of several ASEAN countries. There was widespread and sustained involvement from the audience throughout, who expressed a desire to hold a regular annual event involving Senior Economic Officials to exchange experiences on regional economic integration.

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No TREATI activities took place in the course of 2007.

TREATI ACTIVITIES 2004-06

Event	Location	Timing
TREATI seminar for business	Bangkok	March 2004
TREATI workshops on EU REACH chemicals proposals	Singapore and Manila	November 2004
First Meeting of EU and ASEAN Investment experts	Vientiane	26 May 2005
TREATI High-Level Policy Dialogue on EU Economic Integration	Brunei	15 June
EU-ASEAN Workshop on Trade Facilitation and meeting of EU and ASEAN Customs experts	Manila	19-21 July
Meeting of EU and ASEAN electronic/electrical experts	Brussels	July
EU-ASEAN Workshop on Investment (in association with Asia-Invest Forum)	Bangkok	14-15 Nov 2005
EU-ASEAN Workshop on trade in wood products	Kuala Lumpur	24-25 May 2006
EU-ASEAN Workshop on Fishery Products	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Bangkok, Thailand; Manila, The Philippines	12-20 June 2006
EU-ASEAN Workshop on standards and technical regulations for electrical and electronic equipment	Bangkok, Thailand; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Manila, The Philippines	26-30 June 2006
EU-ASEAN Economic Integration Workshop	Brussels	10-13 October 2006

ANNEX III

PLANNED TREATI ACTIVITIES 2008-9

Event	Location	Timing
EU-ASEAN Seminar on Regional Economic Integration	Brussels	28-29 January 2008
EU-ASEAN Seminar on Services and Establishment	Bangkok, Thailand	April 2008
EU-ASEAN Seminar on Services in the Telecoms and Financial Sectors	Manila, The Philippines	July 2008
EU-ASEAN Seminar on Technical Barriers to Trade Issues	tbc	October 2008
EU-ASEAN Seminar on Customs and Trade Facilitation	tbc	January 2009