

EU-SINGAPORE

Free Trade Agreement
Investment Protection Agreement

Safeguards

Five ways the EU-Singapore agreements
guarantee the EU's interests



Uphold
EU
standards



Guarantee
the right to
regulate



Prevent a **race
to the bottom**
on standards



Uphold the
**precautionary
principle**



Protect
**public
services**



EU-SINGAPORE

Free Trade Agreement Investment Protection Agreement

Like all EU trade agreements, the EU-Singapore trade and investment agreements provide safeguards on important issues – for example, ensuring that the EU's strict standards continue to be met.



Uphold
EU **standards**

The EU-Singapore trade and investment agreements safeguard the EU's right to apply our own standards to all goods and services sold in Europe.

All imports from Singapore have to meet EU rules on:

- technical standards for products
- consumer safety
- environmental protection
- animal and plant health and food safety
- genetically modified organisms (GMOs).



Guarantee the
right to **regulate**

The agreements allow us in the EU to regulate as we wish – in other words, to set higher standards and levels of protection for product and food safety, people at work, or the environment, if we want.

The agreements protect EU governments' "right to regulate" in these and other areas. The chapter in the trade agreement on trade and sustainable development includes those safeguards



Prevent a
**race to the
bottom** on
standards

A race to the bottom happens when governments compete to attract investment from foreign companies by lowering their labour or environmental standards – which makes those standards cheaper to meet.

The trade agreement prevents the risk of this happening. Governments can't allow exceptions to, or simply not enforce, their domestic laws as a way of encouraging trade and investment.

In fact the agreement encourages companies to operate responsibly and transparently – for example by saying who their suppliers are.



Uphold the
**precautionary
principle**

EU governments have a legal right to act to protect human, animal or plant health, or the environment, in the face of a perceived risk. The right applies even when scientific analysis is not conclusive. It is known as the 'precautionary principle'.

EU law, which EU trade agreements must respect, enshrines this principle. The agreements also uphold it.

EU-SINGAPORE

Free Trade Agreement
Investment Protection Agreement



Protect
public services

EU governments fully retain the right to keep public services public, and decide for themselves, for example, how they want to deliver healthcare or education.

