



## SEMINAR ON IMPORT OF PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS INTO THAILAND

**BANGKOK, THAILAND / 24-25 MARCH 2021**

AT CARLTON SUKHUMVIT HOTEL



Thailand is an interesting market for EU fruits and vegetables because of the varieties supplied by the EU complement the existing local produce in Thailand, and imports create therefore no extra competition for domestic producers. The same is true vice versa and the EU has become an important market for Thai exports of exotic fruits and vegetables with exports exceeding € 500 Mio annually since many years.

EU exports are far lower (€ 21 Mio vegetables, € 36 Mio fruits in 2019) and are far from reaching their true potential. This is due to exceedingly strict, complex and formal import conditions and approval procedures that are applied to every product/Member State, as well as the challenges faced by the competent authorities to administer the approval process within reasonable timelines.

The administrative capacity of the Thai authority cannot be changed. It is, therefore, even more important to use the available resources efficiently, so to avoid unnecessary demands and create synergies, wherever possible. Through better knowledge of the EU phytosanitary control and certification systems it is hoped that the Thai competent authority can streamline approval procedures and (1) apply the same import conditions to more than one Member State without going through redundant evaluations, and (2) rely on EU authorities to control and enforce the required import conditions without insisting on the formal adoption of detailed protocols.



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## SEMINAR OBJECTIVES

This seminar aims to create an opportunity for officials of the Thai government and the European Union, as well as representatives of Thai and European business operators, to build contacts and deepen the understanding of phytosanitary control systems established in both the EU and in Thailand.

The specific objectives of this seminar are:

- ✓ To strengthen and facilitate exchange among policy makers and F&V industry on both sides
- ✓ To better understand decision making structures in Thailand with regard to market access
- ✓ To accelerate market access for pending (European) dossiers
- ✓ To discuss challenges for market access for F&V to the EU and Thailand

### **Characteristics of the EU Phytosanitary System**

The EU has an advanced phytosanitary system which provides solid guarantees in line with international standards (World Trade Organisation, International Plant Protection Convention).

The unique set of phytosanitary provisions are binding for all Member States and actors in the phytosanitary chain.

The European Commission carries out audits in Member States (reports publicly available) to verify the functioning of the system on a regular basis.

Staff in competent authorities are trained to ensure the proper functioning of the system.

Monitoring of the phytosanitary conditions within EU territory.

Updating of EU legislation following scientific and technical developments and possible new threats.

Permanent consultation and cooperation with phytosanitary experts and scientific bodies (EFSA, IPPC, EPPO, Universities, National Research bodies, etc.).

This seminar is also conceived as a follow up of a similar activity done in October 2019. This seminar may be followed by a virtual study visit of Thai experts to EU Member States to deepen the information exchange and trust building.

Lastly, the main products of interest for EU Member States are pears, kiwis and table grapes. Applications from Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, Germany, Spain and Greece are still pending.

## STRUCTURE OF THE SEMINAR

The seminar will comprise of two seminar-sessions with informative presentations on SPS cooperation such as Plant Health requirements, Food Safety requirements for plant products, and quality standards (e.g. organic certification and Geographical Indications). The first day will be focused on the Thai market, its opportunities and market access conditions, whereas the second day will be dedicated to the EU regulatory framework, i.e. how EU Member States can provide the phytosanitary guarantees required by Thailand, EU quality standards and how to better collaborate.

The topics of the seminars are including, but not limited to:

- ✓ Market profiles (consumption, production and distribution, imports and market access challenges and opportunities)
- ✓ Overview of the import regime for plant and plant products
- ✓ What can be imported into Thailand, what is required?
- ✓ What are the exporters and importer responsibilities?
- ✓ General process for importing plant and plant products and formalities into Thailand



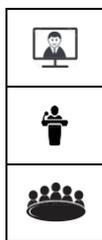
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**HYBRID SEMINAR; FACE-TO-FACE AND REMOTE PRESENTATIONS**

This seminar is taking place partly physically and partly online via a purpose-built e-platform (WebEx). The audience of the seminar attending in Bangkok are representatives from the national competent authorities, EU Delegations, EU MS Embassies, importers, retailers, distributors, media, researchers (etc.). Due to Covid-19 restrictions the maximum number of participants allowed on-site during the event is limited to 70 participants (of which 20 are senior officials from Thailand). The programme of the seminar is designed to facilitate live interactions between high level officials of the EU and host country whilst respecting all necessary health and safety measures.

The programme includes pre-recorded and live presentations, as well as interactive sessions when the time difference between Europe and Asia allows (c.q the afternoon sessions will be interactive).

The programme of the seminar includes the following icons:



Pre-recorded / online presentation

Live presentation from the conference venue

Group discussion / round table or panel discussion

Questions can be asked either from the conference venue and online - both in Thai or in English - and will be recorded during the morning sessions and sent to the keynote speakers to answer during the interactive sessions in the afternoon.

All background material, leaflets and guidance document to provide general information and overview of the topics discussed will be made available on the website of the project: <https://eu-asia-sps.com/>.



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## RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The European Union is organising this seminar in a hybrid format that includes both face-to-face and online meetings. The participants attending the seminar on-site at the **Carlton Sukhumvit hotel are asked to apply social distancing rules**. The participants to the seminar attending at the hotel are therefore asked to comply with the following three rules:

- (i) You do not have flu-like symptoms;
- (ii) You have not travelled, in the 2 weeks prior to the meeting, to any other countries;
- (iii) To your knowledge, you have not had any contact with anyone suspected of having, or confirmed to have, the Coronavirus.

Please also be aware that the body temperature of all staff and participants is checked when entering the hotel. If you have 37.5°C or more, you will not be allowed to enter the hotel.

*If any of these conditions are not met, you are requested not to participate in the event. We respectfully ask you to think about not putting at risk your own or other people's health. Consequently, if you have any symptoms similar to a flu or in case you have travelled from or have been through areas affected by the Coronavirus within the last 14 days or have been in contact with anyone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, you must not come to the event.*

Please note that we will use the seminar participant list for potential contact tracking purposes, which means your data will be processed in accordance with the applicable data protection regulation (including name, email and telephone number). *The aforementioned rules on retention and security will apply for the period the EEAS keeps the data. If you have any queries, please contact the event organiser: [panicha.pumintong@aets-consultants.com](mailto:panicha.pumintong@aets-consultants.com).*

*Details on how your data are processed in the context of meetings/events, are available here: [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/3033/privacy-statements\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/3033/privacy-statements_en)*

### For more information:

- [World Health Organisation](#)
- [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#)
- [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response_en)
- [https://ec.europa.eu/health/coronavirus\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/coronavirus_en)



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**SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

 Bangkok	 Brussels	<b>24 MARCH 2021</b>	
8:30	02:30	<i>Welcoming of participants - Registration</i>	
09:00	03:00	Inauguration of the Seminar by representatives of: <i>Mr Petros Sourmelis Head of Trade and Economic Section, Delegation of the European Union to Thailand</i> <i>Mrs Natthaporn Uthaimongkol, Department of Agriculture, Thailand</i>	
09:30	03:30	Fruits and Vegetables Market trends and Consumer behaviour <i>Ms Supavadee Nimmanakait, Central Food Retail Thailand</i>	
10:00	04:00	EU production standards and trade for fresh fruits and vegetables <i>Mr Philippe Binard, Freshfel Association in Europe</i>	
10:30	04:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00	05:00	Product import to Thailand and potential changes in controls for market access ( <i>Digitalisation of the audits during Covid and beyond</i> )  <i>Spain: Ms Isabel Lorenzo Iñigo, Sub-Direction for SPS agreement and Border Control, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</i>  <i>France: Ms Marion Chaminade, Agri-Food Counsellor – Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Embassy of France in Vietnam</i>	
11:45	05:45	Questions gathering and preparation of Q&A session of the afternoon	
12:00	06:00	<i>Restricted lunch for leaders and officials / Lunch break for participants</i>	
13:30	7:30	Update on ASEAN common requirements on Plant Health and safety of plant products and current initiatives toward trade facilitation among ASEAN member states <i>Ms Dhaniek Sri D. Kusumawardhani, Food, Agriculture and Forestry Division, ASEC</i>	
13:45	07:45	Plant Health Regulation in Thailand and formalities <i>Mrs Natthaporn Uthaimongkol, Expert on Plant quarantine, DoA, Thailand</i> <i>Mrs Warinya Malee, Expert on Import protocols and PRA, DoA, Thailand</i>	
14:45	08:45	Q&A sessions (with speakers from morning sessions available online)	
15:15	09:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:30	09:30	Round Table discussion on <i>Trade Facilitation for Fruits &amp; Vegetables: Market opportunities and challenges</i> , with representatives from: - <i>Representative from the Department of Agriculture, Thailand</i> - <i>Mr Wolf Maier, DG TRADE</i> - <i>Ms Sylvie Coulon, DG SANTE</i> - <i>Mr Laurent Lourdais, Delegation of the EU to Thailand</i> - <i>Ms Almudena Mínguez Matorras, Embassy of Spain</i> - <i>Ms Giulia Montanaro, Assomela (EU apple exporter from Italy)</i>  <b>Including contributions from the audience: Questions &amp; Answers</b> Moderated by Mr Patrick Deboyser	 
16:15	10:15	Conclusions	



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 Bangkok	 Brussels	<b>25 MARCH 2021</b>	
08:30	02:30	Welcome of participants	
09:00	03:00	The European Green Deal: from farm to fork, and its impact on third countries <i>Mr Koen Van Dyck, Head of Unit DG SANTE D3</i>	
09:30	03:30	The new EU 'Plant Health Law' <i>Mr Harry Arijis, DG SANTE</i>	
10:00	04:00	Coffee break	
10:30	04:30	The new of EU Official Controls Regulation and TRACES NT, e-certification including link to e-Phyto <i>Mr Patrick Deboyser, European College of Parma</i>	
11:00	05:00	Official controls in the fruit and vegetables sector. How Member State Competent Authorities implement additional guarantees related to the absence of quarantine pests requested in phytosanitary certificates?  - <i>Belgium: Ms Ilse Van Nerum, Advisor International Affairs, Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain, Belgium</i> - <i>Spain: Ms Rosa Bernardo Colina, Sub-Direction for SPS agreement and Border Control, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</i> - <i>France: Ms Marion Chaminade, Agri-Food Counsellor – Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Embassy of France in Vietnam</i>	
12:00	06:00	Questions gathering and preparation of Q&A session of the panel in the afternoon	
12:30	06:30	Lunch break for participants	
14:00	08:00	Update on the EU market perspectives such as organic products, Geographic Indications vs conventional food <i>Mr Sergio Pavon, DG AGRI</i>	
14:30	8:30	Coffee break	
15:00	09:00	Round Table discussion on <i>Trade Facilitation for Fruits &amp; Vegetables</i> with representatives from:  - <i>Representative from the Department of Agriculture, Thailand</i> - <i>Mr Wolf Maier, DG TRADE</i> - <i>Mr Koen Van Dyck, DG SANTE</i> - <i>Mr Harry Arijis, DG SANTE</i> - <i>Ms Sylvie Coulon, DG SANTE</i> - <i>Mr Sergio Pavon, DG AGRI</i> - <i>Mr Laurent Lourdais, Delegation of the EU to Thailand</i> - <i>Mr Patrick Deboyser, European College of Parma</i>  <b>Including contributions from the audience: Questions &amp; Answers</b>  Moderated by Mr Vincent André	
16:00	10:00	Conclusions and Closing remarks	