

EABC: Supporting European –Thailand Trade and Investment



Mr. Jan Eriksson

President of European Association for Business and Commerce (EABC)

The European Association for Business and Commerce (EABC), referred to as EuroCham Thailand, established in 2011, aims to be the unified voice of the European business community in Thailand. EABC's objectives are to champion European business in Thailand, advocate for members' interests, to and to promote Thailand as an attractive partner for European foreign investment and trade. EABC is the collection point for European business issues for a proposed EU-Thailand FTA. EABC acts as the European chamber of commerce in Thailand, covering all EEA (European Economic Area) states, not just EU states, and the UK. Mr. Jan Eriksson, EABC President talks about EABC's core focus and benefits of EABC.

What are EABC's key activities and services

Advocacy is EABC's core business. The 12 Working Groups and their chairs continue to be the focal points of EABC Advocacy. EABC aims to build consensus in the European Business Community by welcoming to its Working Groups EABC members who are also members of bilateral chambers and to support an experienced-based introduction through direct, initial participation by prospective members. This provides a broader source pool of ideas, information and experience.

EABC has an energetic engagement programme with government agencies, carried out through small or larger group dialogues, written submissions, seminars and conferences and other means such as joint task forces. EABC does not make demands, but rather endeavors to achieve outcomes in the interest of the Thai economy and Thai-European trade and investment. The Working Groups represent deep experience, know-how and commitment to objectives. Both local and foreign authorities have recognized the EABC as a valuable and effective advocate for European business in Thailand.

EABC is also cementing stronger ties with various European institutions and industry bodies.

The 12 Working Groups are;

- Automotive
- Cross Sectoral Issues (with Clusters: Tax Regime, Foreign Investment, The Legal System, Work Permit & Visa, Human Capital Development, Anti Corruption).
- Digital Economy/ICT
- Energy
- Food & Beverages
- Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals
- Industry
- Insurance
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Rail & Road Infrastructures
- Tourism
- Transport & Logistics

SMEs are included in all sectoral groups so that issues especially relevant to SMEs are covered.

EABC Advisory Council comprises European chamber presidents and, where there is no chamber, the head of an Embassy's trade or investment section. It also includes the EU Delegation. It meets twice per year.

The Council provides for better knowledge of EABC status, developments and activities by informing Advisory Council members of advocacy work, initiatives and activities in policy advocacy. Likewise, the Council also supplies EABC advocacy champions with a closer understanding of the policies and business issues of interest to chambers and European missions, as well providing guidance to the EABC on big picture issues.

The Advisory Council does not replace the EABC Board, which along with the EABC Members' meeting, are the decision-making organs of EABC.

Recent EABC Activities

- Co-organizer with EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) Business Mission to Thailand
- Co-organizer with TDRI and JFCCT on Fast Track Regulatory Reform ("Guillotine")
- Courtesy Meeting with Minister of Finance & several engagement on Finance, Digital Economy, Healthcare, and Tax & Customs
- Holding EABC Advisory Council; 2 times per year
- Development of safe border opening recommendations
- Development of proposals for review of barriers to investment, such as in the FBA.
- Engaging in preparations for a proposed EU-Thailand FTA and EFTA-Thailand, both with Ministry of Commerce in Thailand and (for the EU-FTA) with the EU
- Development of safe border opening recommendations.
- EABC signed MoU to combat illicit trade (TRANCIT)
- EABC signed MoU on the Protection of IPR on the Internet with the Department of Intellectual Property
- Digital developments in eCommerce Tax, Data Privacy, Data Security and Digital Platforms

Membership

Being an EABC member offers:

- The opportunity to join in any of the 12 EABC Working Groups and contribute to Advocacy work; which can enhance the chamber's own advocacy interests.
- Being a part of building consensus in the European business community in Thailand and influencing Thai policy makers (Ministries and other government organizations) through our advocacy Working Group.
- Membership in a wider consortium of European business rather than trying to advocate for outcomes on one's own.
- Creating direct contacts with Thai Government representatives as well as with top business decision makers in Thailand and in Southeast Asia
- The opportunity to be elected as Head of Working Group and/or Board member of EABC
- All standard company exposure benefits in EABC communication materials and channels

EABC is also a member of the EU-ASEAN Business Council and gains regional exposure through that relationship, including many regional visits and the annual conference.

EABC offers special rates to **Thai-Finnish Chamber of Commerce** and other bilateral European chamber members.

- THB 6,000 admission fee waived
- 20% discount on annual fees (resulting in THB 12,000 for SMEs and THB 24,000 for larger companies)

For more information about EABC Membership please go to

<https://www.eabcthailand.org/members/membership-benefit/> Tel: 02 697 9112, or contact

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