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Malaysia-EU FTA set to boost total trade by 20%-30%

PETALING JAYA: The proposed Malaysia-European Union (EU) Free-Trade Agreement (FTA) is expected to boost total trade by 20% to 30% from the current 10%, said EU ambassador and head of delegation to Malaysia Maria Castillo Fernandez.

She said this was based on the EU's FTA with South Korea for the past five years, which rose 35%.

"We (EU) have similar volume in terms of trade with Malaysia, so, certainly it will increase to that level.

"This will also create a win-win situation for both sides as we favour an open, free and sustainable trade," she told reporters on the sidelines of the two-day Asean Regional Seminar on Transit and Transshipment here yesterday.

Asked when the FTA can be concluded, Castillo said it would be before year-end based on a constructive meeting between European Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed in Manila on March 10.

Meanwhile, Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Chua Tee Yong said Malmström and Mustapa touched on possible areas of cooperation, particularly on small and medium enterprise development, women and youth entrepreneurship, and sectoral legislative enactments involving vegetable, oils and fats. - Bernama

BERNAMA ONLINE

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Read more: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1340812>

MALAY MAIL ONLINE

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Addressing the seminar, which ended today, Chua said Malaysia had been at the forefront of the Strategic Trade Act (STA) 2010 implementation.

The act is an export control legislation which is an enabler to encourage more exports of strategic items.

“Malaysia's engagement with the EU in the area of export control has expanded from involvement as a participant country to sharing best practices as an expert trainer.

“It is hoped that the seminar will enhance Malaysia's image as a leading nation having comprehensive export control in Southeast Asia, as well as ensuring Malaysia's

compliance with international trade security obligations under the United Nations,” he said.

Chua said a bill to amend the STA 2010, which previously imposed many penalties and required Malaysia to bring cases to the courts, was tabled in Parliament last.

“There were no administrative compounds. So with the new amendments, there will be new provisions on compounding offences and improvement of enforcement powers.

“This is to safeguard Malaysia’s status as a transit and transshipment nation,” he said.

The seminar brought 35 representatives from eight ASEAN member states, namely the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia, as well as 12 experts from the EU.

It is aimed at sharing experiences on strategic trade control laws in detecting, investigating and prosecuting violations of transit and transshipment regulations, strengthen regional cooperation, and discuss effective practises on challenges faced in building strategic trade controls.

The EU is Malaysia third largest trading partner with total trade in January 2017 increased 9.7 per cent to RM12.9 billion from the corresponding month a year ago.

In 2016, trade with the EU rose 0.4 per cent to RM149.1 billion.

Over the past three years in since 2014, trade performance recorded a positive trade balance of RM1.7 billion, RM9.3 billion and RM10.6 billion, respectively. — Bernama

<http://www.themalaymailonline.com/money/article/malaysia-eu-fta-set-to-increase-total-trade-by-20-30pc>

NANYANG

蔡智勇：提高30%贸易量 马欧自贸协议年杪谈成

33点看  2017年3月24日



蔡智勇

（吉隆坡23日讯）我国有望在今年杪前完成马来西亚—欧盟自由贸易协议谈判，欧盟方面预计该自贸协议可提高大马与欧盟贸易量20至30%。

国际贸易及工业部副部长拿督蔡智勇指出，国际贸易及工业部长拿督斯里慕斯达法本月10日已在菲律宾马尼拉与欧盟贸易专员塞西莉亚恢复谈判，并希望协议内容涵盖中小型企业、女性、年轻人及植物油领域。

“欧盟是我国重要贸易伙伴，去年大马与欧盟的贸易已增至1491亿令吉，上扬0.4%；过去的3年也取得贸易盈余，分别是17亿令吉（2014年）、93亿令吉（2015年）及106亿令吉（2016年）。”

蔡智勇是出席由欧盟、Expertise France与贸工部联办的东盟过境与转运研讨会后，在记者会上针对马来西亚—欧盟自由贸易协议谈判进展时，这么说。

出席者包括欧盟对马代表团主管卡丝狄罗费南德斯及贸工部策略贸易管理员费查。

询及何时会完成谈判时，卡丝狄罗费南德斯说，这个谈判进行已久，希望尽快会完成。

“（会否在今年杪完成）我相信会更早，大马与欧盟已经恢复谈判，应该很快会有结果。”

欧韩贸易量增35%

她以欧盟—韩国自由贸易协议为例，欧盟与韩国签署5年的自由贸易协议后，双方的贸易量增加35%，按照大马与欧盟的贸易量，估计贸易量可推高20至30%。

“约2000家欧盟企业在大马立足，他们的规模很大，欧盟是马来西亚很重要的贸易伙伴。”

货品过境转运合作很重要

蔡智勇指出，大马与欧盟自由贸易协议肯定会带动双方的贸易来往。

出口电子产品棕油

“欧盟在我国主要投资是半导体，我国出口电子与电子产品、棕油、橡胶及化学产品到欧盟，并进口机械、交通设备及电子产品。”

另外，卡丝狄罗费南德斯针对英国恐怖袭击事件，提醒货品过境与转运安全问题。

她说，各国在货品过境与转运课题上的合作非常重要，因为恐袭可以在任何地方发生。

<http://www.enanyang.my/news/20170324/%E8%94%A1%E6%99%BA%E5%8B%87%E6%8F%90%E9%AB%9830%E8%B4%B8%E6%98%93%E9%87%8Fbr-%E9%A9%AC%E6%AC%A7%E8%87%AA%E8%B4%B8%E5%8D%8F%E8%AE%AE%E5%B9%B4%E6%9D%A%E8%B0%88%E6%88%90/>