

PRESS RELEASE

Digital seminar on EU production standards for agri-food products

The entry into force of the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) on 1 August 2020 opens very significant opportunities for the sustainable development of bilateral trade relations, in particular of agri-food products. In order to build on the present momentum, the European Commission will organise a digital seminar on EU production standards for agri-food products on 8-9 October 2020.

The online webinar will be organised by the European Commission with the participation of European experts in food safety and quality policy, as well as representatives from the Vietnamese authorities, EU food sector organisations, local importers and retailers. The event will bring a live discussion on practical approaches to quality and safety standards, including food and farming policies, labelling, controls and geographical indications, as well as opportunities to foster EU-Vietnamese agri-food trade.

Major retailers and distributors, consumer organisations as well as agri-food media representatives are invited to join His Excellency Mr Giorgio Aliberti (EU Ambassador to Vietnam), representatives of the Vietnamese authorities, Mr John Clarke (Director, International Relations, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission) and a panel of experts for interactive discussions.

Prior to the online seminar, the European Commission has produced a series of e-learning presentations to enable attendees to become familiar with:

- The EU legislative framework on food safety, animal health and plant health
- The EU legislation on food information to consumers
- Food safety standards for animal and plant products
- Regulations for imports and exports of food and beverage products.

The content of the e-learning presentations aims at presenting the EU's high standards on food safety and quality to Vietnamese stakeholders whilst promoting an understanding of each other's agri-food systems. They will be available to registered participants prior to the seminar. In addition, the seminar will be a platform to discuss opportunities under the Trade Agreement in trade of agri-food products, an opportunity for many Vietnamese stakeholders to learn about and to benefit from the EVFTA.

The online seminar will focus on how:

- The EU Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) system for animal and plant agri-food products ensures that EU products are safe, traceable and of high quality.
- The EU ensures that Vietnamese consumers will benefit from one of the highest levels of SPS protection in the world.
- The EU quality standards for agricultural food and beverage products have helped EU products build a renowned reputation worldwide as well as support the livelihood of farmers and rural communities.

Vietnam is the EU's second largest trading partner in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) after Singapore, with trade in goods worth €45.5 billion in 2019 and trade in services of some €4 billion (2018). Online seminar registration at [\[Insert hyperlink\]](#)

For more information or specific request, please email [\[Insert email address\]](#) or call [\[Insert name\]](#) on [\[Insert telephone number\]](#).

