# The AEC 2025 Consolidated Strategic Action Plan

## February 2017

Early in February this year, the ASEAN Secretariat published its Consolidated Strategic Action Plan (CSAP) to complement the AEC 2025 Blueprint that had been adopted by all the ASEAN leaders at the 27th ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur on 22 November 2015. The CSAP was envisioned in the Blueprint (Part III, paragraph 82.ii).

The CSAP lays out strategic measures for each of the five characteristics of the ASEAN Economic Community 2025 mentioned in the Blueprint:

- (a) A Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy;
- (b) A Competitive, Innovative, and Dynamic ASEAN;
- (c) Enhanced Connectivity and Sectoral Cooperation;
- (d) A Resilient, Inclusive and People-Oriented, People-Centred ASEAN; and
- (e) A Global ASEAN,

Each strategic measure comes with specific key action lines, along with anticipated timelines, sectoral work plans and bodies, as appropriate. In total, there are 153 strategic measures and 525 action lines. We have summarised in chronological order the key action lines for the strategic measures most relevant to customs and trade, indicating key action lines that are expected to be achieved in each particular year, as follows (we have indicated the blueprint element indicators in brackets for easy reference):

### **2017**

- Develop a toolkit for business competition compliance (B1)
- Periodical review of the ASEAN FTA competition provisions by the AEGC and under the wider FTA
- Develop and implement a concrete work plan on Good Regulatory Practice guide (GRP) (B7)
- Release a publication on Global Megatrends (B8)
- Promote Tariff Finder and ASSIST to business association (D2)
- Enhance coordination between ASEAN Business Advisory Council (BAC) and the ASEAN Secretariat
- Sign the legal instrument to implement the outcomes of TIS, MNP, and Investment negotiations under ASEAN-JCEP Agreement (E)
- Finalise the review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (E)
- of Sensitive Track products under AKFTA Trade in Goods Agreement (E)
- 10. Commencement of General Review on ASEAN Australia-New Zealand FTA Agreement (E)

#### 2020

- Promote development and utilization of ecommerce platforms to encourage expansion of SMEs (D1)
- Establishment of export clinics for SMEs in each member states (D1)

### **2018**

- Myanmar, Viet Nam in 7% flexibility list (A1)
- Explore the possibility to allow business to choose

- TiVA database (A6) Initiate multilateral electricity trade in at least one

#### 2019

- 1. Develop guidelines to effectively address NTMs
- Develop enforcement mechanisms on competition policy to handle cross-border cases in ASEAN (B1)



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- 1. Elimination of tariff for petroleum products of Vietnam and Cambodia (A1)
- 2. Strengthen engagement with businesses to deal effectively with NTMs (A1)
- 3. Facilitate consultation to incidents and problems related to SPS measures (A1)
- 4. Further simplification of the Certificate of Origin (CO) Form D (A1)
- 5. Simplify the OCP (A1)
- 6. Encourage the utilisation of Trade Facilitation platforms, such as ASW, ATR and ASSIST (A1)
- 7. Support the adherence to WTO TFA (A1)
- 8. Explore improved disciplines in ATIGA on Trade Facilitation, especially for MSMEs (A1)
- 9. Strengthen cooperation among ASEAN customs administrations in combating transnational crime, illicit trade, simplifying border procedures, customs valuation, classification, and modernisation (A1)
- Finalizing and implementing the ASEAN Food Safety Policy (AFSP) (B8)
- 11. Complete the Singapore Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) and ASEAN Highway Network projects (C1)
- 12. ASEAN facilitation-related procedures for the operationalisation of AFAFGIT in ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) Pilot Testing (C1)

#### 2021

- 1. Develop an ASEAN Online Dispute Resolution (B2)
- 2. Establishment of 'Digital Service Hub' that will enhance trade supply chain and also improve the competitiveness of ASEAN SMEs (D1)
- 13. Implementation of EDI in ASEAN ports (C1)
- 14. Promote digital trade (C2)
- 15. Develop guidelines of good on-line business practice based on self-regulation best practices (C3)
- 16. Implement ASEAN regulations addressing identified NTMs and NTBs (C<sub>5</sub>)
- 17. Provide support for export in relation to adoption of international certification (D1)
- 18. Support ASEAN initiatives in the negotiation and implementation of TBT Chapters of ASEAN + 1 FTAs, and future economic partnership and free trade agreements, including coordination of inputs to the WTO TBT committee (E)
- 19. Conclude RCEP negotiations (E)
- 20. Signing of the ASEAN Hong Kong, China FTA (E)
- 21. Implement ASEAN-EU Trade and Investment Work Programme (E)
- 22. Implement Post 2015 ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Work Programme (E)
- 23. Implement the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment (E)
- 24. Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA) and the Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) (E)
- 25. Explore strategic engagement with regional groupings such as APEC and EAEU (E)

Monitoring and tracking of the implementation of the CSAP will be conducted by the ASEAN Secretariat with support of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS). With most actions having a target year of 2025, the ASEAN Secretariat has to carefully select the appropriate approach and methodology to be used in order to ensure plans are effectively evaluated and implemented according to the anticipated timeline.

### Let's talk

For a deeper discussion of how this might affect your business, please contact:

**Frank Debets**Managing Partner

Office: +65 6236 7302

Email: frank.debets@sg.pwc.com



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