

---

## CALL FOR PAPERS

CHIANG MAI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE-23 JULY 2024

ORGANIZED BY

CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY, NANTES UNIVERSITY AND HO CHI MINH CITY  
UNIVERSITY OF LAW

### **“The effects of agreements between ASEAN countries and the European Union”**

In 2020, ASEAN and the EU announced their intention to "open a new chapter" in their relations by becoming "strategic partners". To this end, the two organisations are committed to holding regular summits at leaders' level. This partnership, based on the shared values of respect for the rules of international order, multilateralism and free and fair trade, is presented as contributing to prosperity, security, resilience and connectivity. The first-ever summit between the leaders of the EU Member States and ASEAN was held on 14 December 2022. The summit addressed issues such as security, digital transition, sustainable development and economic cooperation. The European Union plans to invest €10 billion in infrastructure in the region as part of its "Global Gateway" strategy. In Bali on 17 October 2022, the EU and ASEAN signed the world's first "block-to-block" air transport agreement, which could pave the way for the negotiation of a comprehensive trade agreement between the two organisations, along the lines of the one planned between the EU and Mercosur. The European Union has also signed so-called "new generation" agreements with several ASEAN countries. A free trade agreement with Singapore has been in force since 2019, and an agreement on digital trade has been under negotiation since July 2023. The free trade agreement with Vietnam has been in force since 2020. Negotiations to update the agreements with the Philippines and Indonesia were launched in 2015 and 2016 respectively, while negotiations with Thailand, initiated in 2013 and suspended in 2014, resumed in 2023. Negotiations were also launched with Malaysia in 2010 and suspended in 2012, while discussions launched with Myanmar in 2015 were suspended due to the coup d'état in 2021.

The European Union is thus strengthening its ties with ASEAN, making it the region's third-largest source of direct investment and its third-largest trading partner. The EU's interest in cultivating this relationship, which began over forty-five years ago, is reinforced by its desire to reduce its dependence on China. On a geopolitical level, this enables it to contribute to the realisation of its Indo-Pacific strategy presented in 2021 and to increase its presence in a resource-rich region in which China's influence is growing. The conclusion of trade agreements enables the European Union to exert a normative influence, in particular by including provisions relating to sustainable development and social rights.

It is therefore proposed to look at the effects of the agreements concluded by the EU and ASEAN. They can be analysed from the point of view of the two 'blocs': what are the contributions of the legal mechanisms put in place for each of the parties? They can also be analysed from the point of view of individuals. While the agreements are indeed international

agreements whose subjects are States, they also have an impact on the rights of economic operators and individuals: human rights (and more particularly social rights) and consumer rights (such as the use of geographical indications), for example.

A study of the effects of the agreements thus makes it possible - without being exhaustive - to look at the following elements:

- the scope of trade liberalisation measures and their potential impact on the economies of the partners
- The protection of fundamental rights and its impact on the parties' legal systems
- Environmental protection and the promotion of sustainable development
- Dispute settlement procedures and their limits.

### PROPOSED TOPICS OF INTEREST

The study of ASEAN countries – European Union agreements' effects may raise, among other, the following questions :

- The scope of application of trade liberalization measures and their potential impacts on partners' economies
- The protection of fundamental rights and their impacts on the legal systems of parties
- The protection of environment and the promotion of sustainable development
- Dispute settlement procedures and their limits
- European Union in Southeast Asia
- Issues that the ASEAN States shall face when participating in agreements with the European Union
- WTO+ and WTO-X provisions in agreements between ASEAN countries and European Union
- Integration in ASEAN and the European Union

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Date of the conference:** 23 July 2024

**Location of the conference:** Chiang Mai, Thailand

**Deadline for submitting a contribution proposal:** 30 May 2024

**Deadline for submitting the finished PowerPoint and Word versions of the presentation:**  
17 July 2024

**Proposal format:** Word

---

To be submitted to the email address: [usanee.a@cmu.ac.th](mailto:usanee.a@cmu.ac.th), [emilie.delcher@univ-nantes.fr](mailto:emilie.delcher@univ-nantes.fr),  
[ttduong@hcmulaw.edu.vn](mailto:ttduong@hcmulaw.edu.vn)

**Conference languages: French, English**

**Support for authors of contributions:** The Chiang Mai University will offer 1 night's accommodation

**Publication of the conference:** Publication envisaged in the Vietnamese Journal of Legal Sciences (<https://sciendo.com/journal/VJLS>)