

For Immediate Release

**SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE SIM ANN TO VISIT BRUSSELS, BELGIUM,
AND PARIS, FRANCE, FROM 6 TO 10 JUNE 2017**

1. Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Ms Sim Ann is visiting Brussels, Belgium, from 6 to 7 June 2017 and Paris, France, from 7 to 10 June 2017. She will reaffirm bilateral economic relations with the EU, Belgium, and France, and represent Singapore at the Informal World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Meeting held in Paris.
2. In Brussels, Ms Sim will call on Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Didier Reynders. Ms Sim will also meet with Members of the European Parliament and call on EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström to discuss the way forward for the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) following the European Court of Justice's Opinion on 16 May 2017.
3. In Paris, Ms Sim will participate in the Informal World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Meeting, on the side-lines of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting. Ministers and officials from 25 Member States are expected to attend this meeting. The meeting will discuss potential deliverables for the upcoming 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2017. Ms Sim will also call on French Minister of State for the Digital Sector Mounir Mahjoubi and meet senior officials from the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.
4. Ms Sim said, "Singapore reaffirms the importance of the WTO's rules-based multilateral trading system. The EUSFTA is an important milestone in the bilateral relations between Singapore and the EU. Singapore is committed to working closely with the European Commission and EU Member States to bring the EUSFTA into force as soon as possible. I also look forward to further strengthening our economic relations with Belgium and France."
5. Ms Sim will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Annex A: Information about bilateral trade relations between Singapore and the EU, France and Belgium

Ministry of Trade and Industry
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Annex A: Information about bilateral trade relations between Singapore and the EU, France and Belgium

Singapore-EU bilateral trade relations

1. The EU is Singapore's third largest trading partner, with yearly bilateral trade worth nearly S\$93.2 billion. In terms of investment flows, the EU is the largest foreign investor in Singapore, accounting for S\$287.9 billion and approximately 23% of the total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) stock in Singapore in 2015.

Singapore-France bilateral trade relations

2. In 2016, France was Singapore's second largest trading partner in the EU and 14th largest in the world. Our total trade with France in 2016 was close to S\$16 billion, an increase of 12.6% from 2015. France is Singapore's 6th largest EU investor and 19th largest investor globally, with total FDI stock at an estimated S\$14.8 billion at end-2015.

Singapore-Belgium bilateral trade relations

3. In 2016, Singapore's total trade with Belgium was S\$9.56 billion, a 7.8% increase from 2015. This made Belgium our 23rd largest global trading partner and our 5th largest EU trading partner. As of end-2015, total stock of FDI from Belgium stood at S\$3.97 billion, making it our 30th largest global investor and 9th largest EU investor.