

## EU Support for ASEAN Economic Community

As part of its long-term partnership with ASEAN, The **ARISE** project (ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU) builds on the work of its previous programmes and reaffirms the EU's commitment to support ASEAN integration and development.

ARISE is based in the ASEAN Secretariat and will run until 2016. The purpose of ARISE is to support the implementation of key regional integration initiatives prioritised in the ASEAN Economic Community blue print and ATIGA, to build the ASEAN single market and production base.

The ATR online interface was developed by ARISE in cooperation with the ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat.



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## ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR)



## What is the ATR?

In line with the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), the **ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR)** aims at providing transparency on the trade and customs laws and procedures of all ten ASEAN Member States (AMSs).

The actual information is web-linked to the ATR from a network of **National Trade Repositories (NTRs)**, which are the domestic portals maintained by each AMS.

The ATR is the electronic interface through which the public can freely access the information available on the NTR of each AMS. The ATR is maintained by the ASEAN Secretariat and can be accessed on this website: <http://atr.asean.org/>

The ATR includes:

- A search engine with user-friendly operating guidelines and search fields;
- Information arranged by 'topic';
- Information arranged by country, which allows, for each topic, to retrieve the trade-related information uploaded by each AMS;
- A link to the online database containing the standards that ASEAN has harmonized towards the existing relevant international standards; and
- A link to the webpage of the *ASEAN Solutions for Investments, Services and Trade (ASSIST)* mechanism.

## What are the main objectives of the ATR/NTRs system?

The ATR/NTRs system aims at:

- Increasing regulatory transparency;
- Identifying and classifying non-tariff measures;
- Streamlining non-tariff measures by allowing AMSs to discuss them before adoption; and
- Enabling traders, producers and economic operators to better comply with import-export requirements or address possible barriers to trade.

More broadly, the ATR/NTRs will play a key trade facilitation role, enhancing economic integration and attracting FDI into ASEAN.

## What information does the ATR/NTRs contain?

The ATR/NTRs will contain the trade and customs laws and procedures of all AMSs and trade-related information, such as:

- Tariff nomenclature;
- MFN tariffs, preferential tariffs offered under this Agreement and other Agreements of ASEAN with its Dialogue Partners;
- Rules of origin;
- Non-tariff measures;
- National trade and customs laws and rules;
- Procedures and documentary requirements;
- Administrative rulings;
- Best practices in trade facilitation applied by each AMS; and
- A List of authorised traders of AMSs.

## What are the key characteristics of the ATR?

**Well-structured:** Simple, logical, easy to maintain and to update.

**Comprehensive:** Contains all trade-related information on the trade and customs laws and procedures of all AMSs, as mandated by the ATIGA.

**Accessible:** The ATR is in English, and uses efficient and reliable software that can easily connect to the NTRs and retrieve information. The ATR is also public, non-fee-based and available on the internet.

**Easy-to-search:** The ATR is well organised, running on simple and logical software, and based on a shared classification. The ATR is well cross-referenced, with hyperlinks to the internet facilities and databases of AMSs where the substantive information can be traced and downloaded (or purchased, if available only in paper form). The same interfaces, structures, style and searchability functions apply to the ATR and to the individual NTRs of all AMSs.

**Reliable:** The information on the ATR is not legally-binding, but it is intended to be reliable and updated by AMSs in a timely manner through notifications to the ASEAN Secretariat and by constantly web-linking it to the updated NTRs.