

From: (ENV)
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 12:03 PM
To: SCHOMAKER Astrid (ENV); (ENV); (ENV); (ENV); (TRADE); (TRADE); (TRADE); (AGRI); CASTIJO FERNANDEZ Maria (EEAS-KUALA LUMPUR); (EEAS-KUALA LUMPUR); (EEAS-KUALA LUMPUR); (DEVCO); (CLIMA); (TRADE); (EEAS); (EEAS); (EEAS-KUALA LUMPUR); (EEAS); (EEAS-JAKARTA); (ENV); (TRADE); (TRADE)
Cc: (ENV); (TRADE); (TRADE)
Subject: Meeting with Malaysia

Dear all,

Here is a quick report from our meeting with Malaysia this morning (Ambassador of Malaysia and Secretary General of the Ministry of plantation industries + 8 other representatives, mainly from MPOB and MPOC).

The meeting was attended from our side by (ENV) as well as by (TRADE).

Discussions focused mainly on the EP resolution on palm oil and deforestation, the follow-up that the Commission will give to it and palm oil treatment in FTA negotiations. Malaysia expressed concerns about the EP resolution, regretting the critical approach adopted by the EP, singling out palm oil and failing to recognize the efforts made by producer countries, in particular Malaysia, as well as the specific situation of smallholders and the need to adopt a tailored and balanced approach. They insisted on the need to define a common approach on PO treatment in the FTA and expressed once again concerns about possible unilateral measures on the EU side. Malaysia drew also a parallel with the FLEGT VPA and the difficulty to envisage a VPA covering furniture made by small producers / informal sector.

They further indicated that the joint Ministerial visit (with Indonesia) in Brussels was scheduled for the third week of June, though the Indonesian Ambassador announced yesterday to TRADE colleagues that the visit was scheduled for the third week of July. Malaysia will get back to us with further clarifications as to the exact date and asked for our support to ensure meetings at sufficiently high level from the Commission side. Malaysia expressed also interest to give a presentation during our conference on illegal logging and palm oil (21-23 June, Brussels) as well as to our palm oil workshop foreseen in September (as part of the ENV study on palm oil).

We recalled the Commission line on palm oil, sustainability issues and deforestation, as well as the need to discuss PO sustainability through upcoming FTA negotiations, and agreed to follow-up on Malaysia's points regarding the joint Ministerial visit in June, the illegal logging and deforestation conference as well as the palm oil workshop in September.

Best regards

Unit F3 - Multilateral Environmental Cooperation
 DG Environment - European Commission