

# **An Investigation into the Measures Affecting the Integration of ASEAN's Priority Sectors (Phase 2): Overall Findings and Recommendations**

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Author:

Christopher Findlay

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In addition to the above author, Herb Plunkett has also contributed in drafting this report.

The views expressed in this report are those of the authors, and not necessarily those of the ASEAN Secretariat and/or the Australian Government.

## ABSTRACT

In this report we argue for

- the value of implementing zero CEPT rates
- a program of MFN tariff rate cuts and a cap on the MFN rate of say 10 per cent
- the accelerated and uniform implementation of the 'single window' initiative
- a ban on all import licensing (automatic or not)
- a ban on all quantitative measures, including tariff quotas
- action to augment the list of priority non-tariff barriers for removal
- a commitment to a transparency initiative in the services sector.

Policy application varies between countries, suggesting there may be value in particular countries following different reform paths. However, a key result from this project is the number of elements of a reform program which countries will be tackling in common. This supports the scope for regional cooperation to contribute to successful reform.

These points are not surprising and initiatives in some of these areas are underway. The project has reinforced the value of that work and suggests options for variation in coverage and acceleration in implementation.

The issues of the confidence among the membership to see that work to conclusion and for the initiatives to be fully implemented must also be resolved.