



ISSUE 16 / COVERAGE 1-30 APRIL 2025

Trade talks conclude; data routes remain conditional

Malaysia and EFTA finish negotiations while China clarifies aspects of cross-border financial data flows.

11 April 2025 / Malaysia • EFTA

MEEPA moves towards signature

Malaysia and the four EFTA states concluded negotiations on the Malaysia-EFTA Economic Partnership Agreement. The negotiating milestone covered a broad trade relationship, but it was not signature, ratification or entry into force. The agreement was signed later, in June.

NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED

17 April 2025 / China

Financial data-transfer guidance is released

Reuters reported that China's central bank and five other agencies released guidelines to facilitate cross-border financial data flows and clarify relevant conditions. The report does not establish a blanket exemption for every dataset or institution.

REGULATORY DEVELOPMENT REPORTED

THE MALAYSIAN LENS

For Malaysian exporters and financial businesses, trade access and data access are separate questions. Our interpretation: a commercial opportunity may still depend on origin rules, implementation dates, data classification and the roles of overseas counterparties.

QUESTION TO ASK

Which step is actually complete: negotiations, signature, domestic approval, or an operational permission for this transaction?

WATCH / NEXT STEP

Do not price in a tariff preference before it applies, or transfer sensitive information solely because a news headline says flows have been facilitated.

READ THE ORIGINAL SOURCES

EFTA • Malaysia agreement and milestone dates ↗

Reuters • China releases financial data-flow guidelines ↗

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