High Representative Catherine Ashton at the ASEAN Regional Forum in Brunei

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission Catherine Ashton is in Brunei today to represent the EU at the 20th Ministerial meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), 1-2 July. The High Representative is to co-host the EU-ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference. "The EU’s longstanding commitment to supporting ASEAN is a reflection of our determination to play a constructive role in the new regional architecture of Asia" said Catherine Ashton speaking ahead of her trip.

The situation in the Korean Peninsula, maritime security and political reforms in Burma/Myanmar are expected to be among the main issues discussed by leaders at the Forum.

The High Representative will also hold bilateral meetings with a number of Foreign Ministers present at the meeting to discuss other foreign affairs issues of mutual interest.

Background

The ARF brings together the Foreign Ministers of the 10 ASEAN Member States (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam), as well as the United States, China, Russia, Japan, India, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, North Korea, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Sri Lanka and the EU. The ARF remains the main security forum in South East Asia where the EU is present on behalf of its Member States.

EU relations with Asia: http://eeas.europa.eu/asia/index_en.htm