

# EU-ASEAN: Natural Partners

## EU-ASEAN – a common DNA

As the two major regional integration initiatives in the world, ASEAN and the EU are natural partners and it is no wonder our cooperation has flourished so strongly:

- The EU and ASEAN share the same goals for their citizens – peace, stability and prosperity. Both are committed to address issues with a multilateral approach. The EU and ASEAN share, as it were, the same DNA.
- The EU is ASEAN's 2nd largest trading partner. We are crucial partners commercially with € 206 billion (about US\$ 268 billion) in total trade (in goods and services) between the EU and ASEAN in 2011. ASEAN is the EU's 5th largest trading destination.
- In the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) together with other partners, ASEAN and the EU address regional and international security issues of common interest and concern. The objective of the ARF is to foster constructive dialogue and consultation through confidence building and preventive diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region.

## EU-ASEAN Relations – a strong history

Our regions have been intertwined for centuries and our citizens flow in huge numbers between our regions for business, cultural, academic and tourist trips.

With the creation of the EU and ASEAN, our regions became natural partners. In 1972, the EU – the European Economic Community (EEC) at the time – was the first to establish contacts with ASEAN. Five years later, in July 1977, these contacts were formalised at Ministerial level.

Today, the EU and ASEAN can look back on 40 years of friendship and cooperation, having established cooperation in many areas, expanded financial assistance and enhanced dialogue with numerous technical level meetings and bi-annual Ministerial meetings.

Agreements reached during these meetings confirm our lasting relationship and lay the basis for further extensive cooperation.

## Milestones

1972	European Economic Community (EEC) is the first to establish informal relations with ASEAN
1977	The 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (of Foreign Ministers) agreed on ASEAN's formal cooperation and relationship with the European Economic Community (EEC)
1978	1st EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, Brussels
1980	EC-ASEAN Cooperation Agreement sets up the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) at the 2nd Ministerial Meeting, Kuala Lumpur
1994	Eminent Persons Group for a comprehensive approach to ASEAN-EU relations is created at the 11th Ministerial Meeting, Karlsruhe
1996	EU and ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and Korea) establish the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and hold the 1st Summit, Bangkok
2003	January: EU and ASEAN sign Joint Declaration on Cooperation to Combat Terrorism at the 14th Ministerial Meeting, Brussels  July: European Commission launches its Policy Paper: "A New Partnership with South East Asia"
2005/6	EU and ASEAN cooperate in Aceh Monitoring Mission
2007	March: The Nuremberg Declaration on an Enhanced EU-ASEAN Partnership is signed at the 16th Ministerial Meeting, Nuremberg  November: A Plan of Action to implement the Nuremberg Declaration is adopted at the 1st ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit, Singapore
2009	With the ASEAN Charter in place, the EU and its Member States start to appoint Ambassadors as Representatives to ASEAN
2011	May: 1st ASEAN-EU Business Summit (AEBS), Jakarta (the 2nd AEBS took place in Phnom Penh in April 2012)
2012	April: Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the EU adopt, in Brunei, the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action 2013-2017, defining ASEAN-EU cooperation in the next five years  July: EU accedes to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC)



## EU and ASEAN: deepening relations for the next decade

Following the ASEAN Charter, the EU and ASEAN set out to further expand cooperation, bringing our two great regions closer together. What we have seen in the last few years has been an intensifying of the relationship as reflected by the following:

- **Intensified support for the ASEAN Community building process** as defined in the ASEAN Charter and further detailed in the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community.
- **Upgrade diplomatic relations.** The Charter opened the door for formal accreditation of Ambassadors to ASEAN. The EU and all its Member States present in Jakarta (the seat of the ASEAN Secretariat) have appointed their ambassadors to ASEAN. To date 23 Ambassadors from the EU have been accredited as representatives to ASEAN, representing all EU Member States present in the region and the EU Delegation in Jakarta.
- **Pursue Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) with ASEAN Member States.** Negotiations on PCAs with Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam were completed in 2009/2010 and are on-going with Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. In April 2012, the EU agreed with Brunei to launch negotiations on a PCA.
- **Enhance and strengthen the dialogue on trade and investment** at region-to-region level with the goal of supporting ASEAN integration and the long term objective of a region-to-region Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Once a year consultations take place between ASEAN Economic Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner. During these consultations, ASEAN and EU Economic Ministers formulated a Trade and Investment Work Programme whose implementation is almost completed. In addition, the first ASEAN-EU Business Summit (AEBS) was organised in May 2011, in Jakarta, back to back with the ASEAN-EU Economic Ministers' Consultations and in the margins of the 18th ASEAN Summit. A Permanent EU-ASEAN Business Council has also been created in 2011. The second AEBS was held in April 2012 in Phnom Penh.
- **Negotiate Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with ASEAN Member States.** Negotiations for a bilateral FTA with Singapore were concluded in December 2012. With Malaysia, negotiations are well advanced and with Vietnam, negotiations have just started. Pre-negotiations talks are close to conclusion with Thailand, and are on-going with Indonesia. The Philippines have also expressed an interest. These bilateral agreements should serve as stepping stones towards an overarching region-to-region agreement, which remains the EU's ultimate objective for trade and investment relations with the ASEAN region.
- **Enhance technical assistance support.** The EU directs its support at two levels. First, to the ten individual Member

States of ASEAN, focused on their respective national priority areas. Second, with programmes supporting ASEAN integration, which are run through the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. The mandate of the ASEAN Secretariat is "to provide for greater efficiency in the coordination of ASEAN organs and for more effective implementation of ASEAN projects and activities".

- On 27 April 2012, the **EU and ASEAN adopted the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action** to Strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership (2013-2017) at the 19th Ministerial Meeting. The Plan of Action sets the agenda for ASEAN-EU cooperation in the next five years. It reflects the further deepening of the relationship and ever closer cooperation, increasingly also in the policy and security area.
- On 12 July 2012, the **EU joined the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC).** With the accession of the EU, with its 27 Member States, 54 countries adhere now to this ASEAN-initiated Treaty. It will boost the EU's political engagement with the region and further enhance cooperation with ASEAN.

### Among the areas in the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action that will be addressed or enhanced in the period 2013 to 2017:

- **Promote regional cooperation to maintain peace, security, and stability** by strengthening ASEAN's "centrality" in the evolving "regional architecture"; it means the enhancement of political dialogue and of cooperation in mediation and reconciliation; there will be cooperation in: crisis response; maritime safety and security; counterterrorism; disarmament and non-proliferation; fighting trans-national crime; mitigating risks associated with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials; interfaith dialogue; human rights;
- **Economic cooperation:** continued strong support to ASEAN economic integration (the EU is a unique partner in this respect); dialogue and exchanges on the technical aspects of a single market from food safety to connecting energy markets; support to ASEAN connectivity; economic and social policy dialogue; small and medium size enterprises; support to the creation of a single aviation market;
- **Socio-cultural cooperation:** support to the integration of higher education in ASEAN; support to the ASEAN University Network; disaster response; science and technology; support to sustainable development, biodiversity and environmental policies;
- **Institutional support to ASEAN:** the EU, from its own experience has learned how important it is that the institutions underpinning integration function well and has always supported the ASEAN Secretariat and other ASEAN institutions.





### EU accedes to Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC)

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton (6th from left), signed on 12 July 2012 in Phnom Penh the Instrument of Accession of the EU to the TAC. Simultaneously, the ten ASEAN Foreign Ministers signed the Instrument of Extension to agree to the EU's accession

an overarching region-to-region trade agreement in the long term.

## Development Cooperation between EU and ASEAN

### Sharing Experiences

ASEAN and the EU have developed an extensive programme of cooperation based on our longstanding friendship and ASEAN's wish to draw on the long history of the EU's own regional integration efforts, sharing experiences of not only what has worked in the EU but also what has not.

Part of this cooperation takes place through policy dialogue. To advance specific issues, such as the proposed ASEAN single market, EU and ASEAN Ministers and officials meet more than 50 times per year.

### Contributing to Prosperity

Another part of EU-ASEAN cooperation is delivered through EU support programmes. In the period 2007-2013, in addition to the € 2 billion (about US\$ 2.6 billion) granted to individual ASEAN Member States, the EU is providing € 70 million (about US\$ 90 million) at regional level through the ASEAN Secretariat. Individual EU Member States also provide further funds to ASEAN.

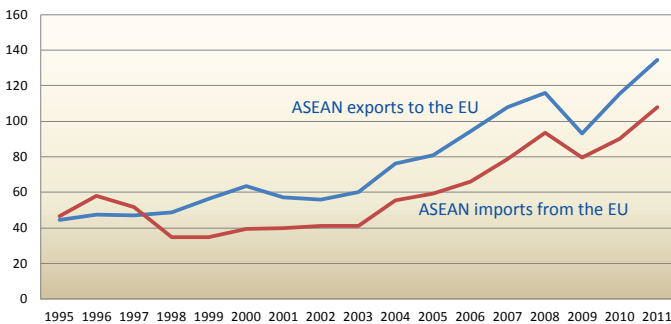
## Strengthening EU-ASEAN Trade and Investment Relations

### Building on Strong Commercial Ties

The EU and ASEAN enjoy very strong commercial ties. The EU is ASEAN's 2nd largest trading partner, while ASEAN is the EU's 5th largest trading partner. **In 2011, total trade (in goods and services) between the two regions was € 206 billion (about US\$ 268 billion) with ASEAN having a trade surplus of about US\$ 25 billion.** The EU is the largest source of foreign direct investment in ASEAN.

### ASEAN-EU Trade (Exports and Imports)

1995-2011 in Billion US\$



Source: IMF Directory

Through their regular dialogue at Ministerial level and the recently established ASEAN-EU Business Summits, the ASEAN and the EU strive to strengthen the trade and investment relations even further.

The bilateral FTAs are stepping stones for a region-to-region agreement. FTAs will be an excellent way to expand commercial ties, overcome obstacles faced by ASEAN and EU companies, and facilitate enhanced cooperation in other spheres. It would hence be beneficial for both the EU and ASEAN to strive for

### Supporting ASEAN Member States

Country	Priority Areas	Million € 2007-13
Cambodia	National Strategic Development Plan, Basic Education	29
Indonesia	Education, Trade and Investment, Globalisation, Law Enforcement	494
Lao PDR	Government Reform, Poverty Reduction	69
Malaysia	Dialogue Facility, Trade and Investment	17
Myanmar	Education, Health	65
Thailand	Economic, Education, Research & Technology, Good Governance, Human Rights, Mine Action	17
Philippines	Poverty Reduction, Health, Trade and Investment, Mindanao Peace Process	130
Vietnam	Socio-Economic Development Plan, Health	304

*Brunei and Singapore do not qualify for official development aid because of their high development levels*



## Supporting the Creation of the ASEAN Community

The EU financial contribution of € 70 million (about US\$ 90 million) directly supports ASEAN in its efforts to implement the three Blueprints for the three Communities in the ASEAN Charter. Following the ASEAN institutional architecture, the EU supports the ASEAN Community in the following areas:

EU Support to ASEAN Community		
Political-Security Community	Economic Community	Socio-Cultural Community
Border management Confidence Building International Peace and Mediation Parliamentarian Diplomacy Asymmetric Risks	Internal Markets Customs Standards Statistics Trade Liberalisation Energy	Education Biodiversity Relief and Disaster Management Media Climate Change Science and Technology

**Support to the Political and Security Community.** This is a new area of cooperation emerging from the Charter. One EU-ASEAN project in border management has already begun. In the EU and ASEAN's experience, border management is becoming a critical issue as closer integration leads to a greater flow of citizens and commercial traffic across national borders.

**Support to the ASEAN Economic Community.** Given that the EU established its own internal (single) market almost 20 years ago, linking the 500 million citizens of the 27 Member

States of the EU, this has been a natural focus for EU-ASEAN programmes since the 1990s.

With the Charter, ASEAN formulated the concrete goal of establishing a single market by 2015. A new large EU programme to help ASEAN realise the nuts and bolts of this single market, addressing harmonised product standards and customs procedures. In addition, the EU helps in areas such as cooperation on statistics between ASEAN Member States, crucial in enabling Member States to take informed decisions on the operation of their single market.

**Socio-Cultural Community.** In this relatively new area of EU-ASEAN cooperation, the EU is providing support for enhanced cooperation through its project READI (Regional EU ASEAN Dialogue Initiative), which finances dialogue and exchanges on disaster management and preparedness, climate change, science and technology, energy and information society.

**In addition, the ASEAN region benefits from global EU programmes in the following areas:**

- Higher education exchange: about 250 students and scholars from ASEAN are awarded Erasmus Mundus scholarships for studies in Europe each year.
- Energy and climate change: cooperation to promote sustainable production and protect biodiversity.
- Sustainable forestry programmes (FLEGT): improvement of sustainable forest governance.
- Regional health hazard programme: cooperation in combating highly pathogenic diseases (HPED) in Asia.
- Good governance: support for a network of 32 cities in five ASEAN Member States, aiming to share knowledge and best practices on good local governance for improving living conditions.
- ECHO and Uprooted People: humanitarian support for displaced persons and refugees; disaster preparedness and response.

### How is this support relevant to the ASEAN citizen?

Some of what happens in EU-ASEAN cooperation programmes seems very technical. At first sight the relevance for the ordinary citizen of ASEAN is not always clear. Let us, therefore, give a concrete example of where EU support has been helpful to ASEAN in its integration efforts and have a look at the implementation of the **ASEAN Cosmetics Directive** which was supported by the EU's APRIS programme.

Cosmetics, from soap to shampoo, are typically products people buy on a daily basis. The ASEAN Cosmetics Directive is one of the first concrete examples where the economic integration of ten ASEAN cosmetics markets is working. Borrowing from the EU approach, the EU helped ASEAN establish the Cosmetics Directive which has now been transposed and being implemented by the ten ASEAN Member States.

Under the Cosmetics Directive, ASEAN regulators and industry have agreed to common standards for cosmetic products, and common rules for product testing and market surveillance. These provisions enable the free movement of cosmetic goods within the ASEAN region, whilst protecting consumers from potentially dangerous products – and opening up access to fresh markets overseas.

While only affecting one sector, this is a big step forward towards the rules-based internal market foreseen in the ASEAN Charter. Let us not forget that the EU of today started in the 1950s in the same limited way with the European Coal and Steel Community and spread from there.



## The ASEAN Charter – An anchor for enhanced EU-ASEAN Cooperation

The ASEAN Charter, which entered into force in late 2008, was a milestone in the history of ASEAN – setting out a vision for the development of the regional grouping over the coming decades.

In developing a Charter, the ASEAN Eminent Persons Group (EPG) – in charge of the drafting of the Charter – visited Europe several times to exchange views with key EU officials, not least the challenges and experiences of EU's integration process.

The Charter increases the ambition of ASEAN by defining the institutional architecture for achieving regional integration: the Political and Security Community, the Economic Community, and the Socio-Cultural Community. The Charter was followed by a "Roadmap" with three "Blueprints" which describe more in detail the steps that need to be taken to accomplish the targets set for regional integration by 2015.

Following the adoption of the ASEAN Charter, the EU and ASEAN upgraded their relations still further to match the increased ambitions of ASEAN and to support their friendship for the coming years.

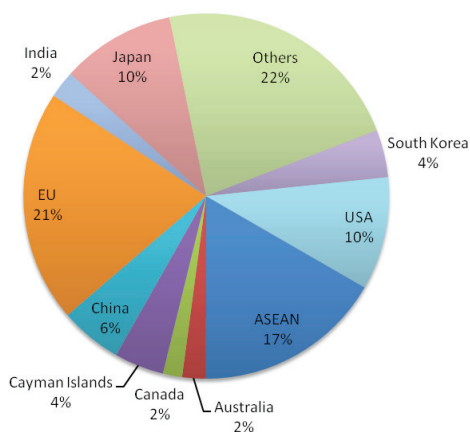
In this context, the EU decided to align its development cooperation portfolio with the ASEAN Agenda as set out in the blueprints. An additional € 30 million was allocated to this purpose for support programmes in the period 2012 to 2015. These programmes are jointly designed with ASEAN.

### EU-ASEAN Key Figures (2011)

	EU	ASEAN
Member States	27	10
Population (in millions)	500	600
Population growth	0.2%	1.2%
GDP (in trillion US\$)	16	2.2
GDP per capita (US\$)	32 000	3 600

Source: Various

### Share of FDI Inflows to ASEAN by Source Country (2008-2010 average)



Source: ASEAN Statistics (February 2012)

### ASEAN-Major Trade Partners (Exports and Imports)

Rank	Partners	Million US \$	Share
	World (including ASEAN)	2,042,000	100 %
1	Intra-ASEAN	519,000	25 %
2	China	231,000	11 %
3	<b>EU-27</b>	<b>208,000</b>	<b>10 %</b>
4	Japan	204,000	10 %
5	USA	186,000	9 %

Source: ASEAN Statistics



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##### ASEAN Secretariat

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#### Important EU links

**European External Action Service:** <http://eeas.europa.eu>  
**EuropeAid – Development and Cooperation:** <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid>  
**ECHO – Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection:** <http://ec.europa.eu/echo>  
**European Commission DG Trade:** <http://ec.europa.eu/trade>



# EU-ASEAN Programme Cooperation

## I. Support to the ASEAN Economic Community

### ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU (ARISE) – (€ 15 million), 2012-2015

ASEAN and the EU Delegation in Jakarta have jointly prepared a €15 million successor project to APRIS II.

APRIS II (€ 7.2 million), 2006-2010, helped build the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), in particular by helping set up regional legislation for removing non-tariff barriers to trade (notably in the areas of standards and customs). The challenge now is to follow up and implement at national level what has been agreed at regional level. For the poorest ASEAN Member States especially, this is a tall order.

ARISE will ensure continued support to ASEAN in implementing key regional integration initiatives related to the building of the ASEAN single market and production base, in particular by supporting the development and implementation of measures that will facilitate the free movement of goods across the region. A significant part of the programme involves support to institutional development and enhancing further dialogue among high level ASEAN decision makers to bring the integration process forward and ensure implementation (to “make it work on the ground”). ARISE started on 1st November 2012 and will operate for 4 years.

### ASEAN-EU Economic Partnership/ Enhancing ASEAN Free Trade Agreement Negotiating Capacity Programme – (€ 2.5 million), 2011-2013

This programme supports ASEAN economic integration and strengthens the capacity of ASEAN Member States to conduct trade negotiations. It started in 2011 and began its capacity building activities in January 2012. From November 2012 the programme has been organising capacity building especially for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV). It supported the ASEAN- EU Business Summits in 2011 and 2012. Under this programme, a Public Dialogue Forum series has also started (the first in Hanoi in September 2012) to reach out to a wider audience. Its current website <http://asean-eubizsummit.com> will be replaced by a dedicated website <http://asean-eufta.org>.

### EU-ASEAN Statistical Capacity Building Programme (EASCAB) – (€ 6 million), 2009-2012

This programme supports the harmonisation and integration of statistical data among the National Statistical Offices of the ASEAN Member States. The project is based in ASEANstats, the regional statistical office in the ASEAN Secretariat.

Thanks to this programme ASEAN has defined its strategy for the development of an ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) by 2015, together with an enhanced ASEAN Framework for Cooperation in Statistics. The project has already succeeded in strengthening the ASEAN Network of Statisticians, linking all ASEAN National Statistical Offices and ASEANstats through ICT equipment, leading to the production and publication of better quality and more timely statistics in the area of Merchandise Trade, Trade in Services and Foreign Direct Investment. It has also pioneered a first ASEAN Millennium Development Goals report.

A follow-up programme of € 7.5 million to further strengthen ASEAN capacity for regional statistics and integration monitoring is being prepared. The new phase is expected to start by mid 2013.

### ASEAN Project on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (ECAP III) – (€ 4.5 million), 2010-2014

Following ECAP I and II, ECAP III aims to support ASEAN efforts to strengthen the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, in areas such as copyrights and Geographical Indications. It supports the implementation of the ASEAN IPR Action Plan. The project is being implemented by the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM).



## **ASEAN Air Transport Integration Project (AATIP) – (€ 5 million), 2012-2016**

The objective of the ASEAN Air Transport Integration Project (€ 5 million) is to help develop the institutional framework and strengthen institutional capacity within ASEAN to achieve a safe, secure and sustainable Single Aviation Market by 2015, based on high regulatory standards. Implementation of this project is expected to start by the end of 2012.

## **II. Support to the ASEAN Political and Security Community**

### **EU-ASEAN Migration and Border Management Programme**

A Single Market and Production Base (ASEAN's objective for 2015) requires improved border management (to speed up trans-border movements). The Migration and Border Management Programme helped strengthen the cooperation between Border Management agencies (e.g. immigration) in ASEAN Member States. It supported the development of an efficient and coherent Border Management System at selected border crossing points, which serve as pilot sites, facilitating the movements of goods and persons, while enabling to better combat transnational crime, illegal migration and the trafficking of human beings. The programme, which was completed in July 2012, helped in particular to improve the exchange of information between INTERPOL National Central Bureaus in ASEAN capitals and the INTERPOL General Secretariat by extending INTERPOL capacity, which in turn improved regional cooperation in combating transnational crime. To follow up on what has been achieved, a new programme for border management is now being designed.

## **III. Support to ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community**

### **Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Initiative (READI) Facility – (€ 4 million), 2011-2014**

The READI Facility came into use in September 2011 and will run for a period of 4 years. For the time being, the Facility supports policy dialogue and knowledge development (study visits, exchange programmes) in areas such as, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Science and Technology, ICT, Energy. Other areas that may be covered are climate change, civil society inclusion etc. READI aims to intensify policy dialogue and the sharing of experience between the EU and ASEAN through networking, dialogues, and seminars, for ASEAN to draw its own policy.

### **EU Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (EU SHARE) -- (€ 10 million), 2013-2017**

The EU and ASEAN are currently preparing a new programme in the field of higher education that will contribute to the harmonisation of the recognition systems between Higher Education Institutions in ASEAN. It will improve the comparability of university qualifications and the ease of transferring credits obtained at one university to another through the development of what is in technical terms called Qualification Framework, Quality Assurance systems, and Credit Transfer systems. The project is expected to start in 2013 for the duration of 4 years.

## **Beyond 2015**

While 2015 is a major milestone for ASEAN integration, it is understood that integration initiatives will have to be sustained in the future to ensure that ASEAN citizens can fully benefit of ASEAN integration. Therefore EU and ASEAN are already starting discussions on priorities for EU support beyond 2015.

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