



## **EUROPEAN UNION**

Delegation of the European Union to  
Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam and ASEAN

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### **Press Release**

## **EU Special Representative for Human Rights Mr Stavros Lambrinidis visits Indonesia to strengthen dialogue with ASEAN**

EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Human Rights Mr Stavros Lambrinidis was on a two-day visit to Indonesia on Tuesday and Wednesday, 7 and 8 May. The main objective of Mr Lambrinidis' visit was to have an open dialogue with the ASEAN Inter Governmental Human Rights Commission (AICHR), the over-arching ASEAN human rights institution.

The discussion with AICHR, the first ever encounter at this high level with an ASEAN Dialogue Partner, was a follow up of AICHR's study visit to Europe in 2011.

Mr Lambrinidis also met with the ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, as well as other ASEAN stakeholders, including regional Civil Society organisations.

EUSR Lambrinidis emphasized ASEAN's centrality in the area of Human Rights in the region and beyond, with AICHR having an overarching role. He also expressed EU willingness to further support AICHR and work closely together to implement the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, the first of its kind in Asia, and the reaffirmed principles of the Phnom Penh Declaration.

The main conclusion of the exchanges between EUSR Lambrinidis and the AICHR was that:

- Building on AICHR's visit to Brussels in 2011 and the fruitful and mutual beneficial dialogue held in Jakarta, both sides agreed to continue consultations and exchanges on a regular basis to deepen the cooperation between ASEAN and the EU in the area of human rights;
- The basis of this cooperation will be based on "mutual inspiration";
- EU stands ready to include exchanges of best practices and lessons learned with other European institutions (i.e. the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe -OSCE) and also with human rights mechanisms developed by other regional organisations;
- Cooperation will be developed through, for instance, visits in both directions and conferences and workshops, supported by the EU-ASEAN READI Programme;
- A work programme will be formulated to prioritise and respond to AICHR's needs, including the revision of AICHR's Terms of Reference, while supporting the implementation of AICHR's five year work plan and the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and the related Phnom Penh Declaration;
- The two sides agreed on the importance of the role of civil society in promoting human rights, their inclusiveness and importance in the ownership of this process.

The EU Special Representative also had talks with Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Marty Natalegawa, Indonesian officials and representatives of Indonesian civil society.

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