

9th MAY 2014 EUROPE DAY EUROPE IN THE WORLD



Head of delegation:
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Laos

Priorities

Engage with Laos on political, economic and development issues.

Support Laos works to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and to graduate from least developed status by 2020.

Enhance coherence with Members States on political and social issues in dialogue with the Lao Government, including support and promotion of democracy, good governance and human rights.

Top 3 Facts

Laos and EU have long enjoyed a close relationship, based on the 1997 EU-Laos Trade and Cooperation Agreement, which makes the EU one of the biggest donors to the country.

Laos benefits from the 'Everything but Arms' initiative and has joined the WTO in February this year.

Laos successfully hosted the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit (ASEM9) in November 2012 with the presence in Vientiane of both President Van Rompuy, and President Barroso.

The EU supports democracy and human rights in the country, with a yearly political dialogue, and projects.

Laos is the most heavily bombed country in the world –unexploded cluster munitions are still found and it will take centuries to clean up. The EU is helping.

Laos and the Mekong River basin are the richest biodiversity area in the world after the Amazone.

The EU is working to preserve this public good by promoting sustainable development.

Did you know?

Despite being one of the poorest countries in the centre of South East Asia, Laos has had high economic growth rates in recent years.

Laos is planning to build many hydro-dams on the Mekong. It could turn the country into a major exporter of electricity, and the country is sometimes called the future '**battery of Southeast Asia**', but questions are being asked about the environmental and social impacts of these dams.

Laos is a one-party republic, lead by a Communist Party.

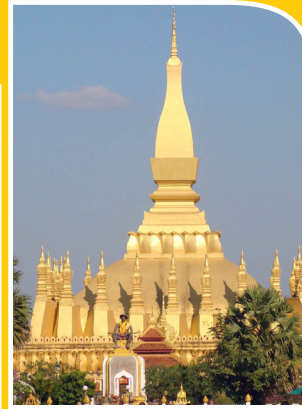
Luang Prabang is a **UNESCO World Heritage site**. The EU has contributed to its restoration. Its other UNESCO heritage is Wat Phou Champasack Province.

Laos ranked by the International Transparency at **160 out of 174 countries under the Corruption Perceptions Index 2012**.

Laos ranked by Reporters without Borders at **168th out of 179 countries under the World Press Freedom Index 2013**.

The 9th ASEM Summit:

President of European Council H.E. Mr Herman Van Rompuy met H.E Mr Thongsing Thammavong Prime Minister of Lao PDR ahead of the 9th ASEM Summit in Vientiane.



Thatluang Stupa:
National symbol.



**EU assistance to
UXO clearance.**

9th May Europe Day

Main links:

EU Delegation in Laos:

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/laos/index_en.htm

European Chamber of Industry and Commerce:

<http://www.eccil.org/>

Trade Development Facility Project:

<http://laosaft.org/>

International Law Project:

<http://www.ilp.gov.la/>

National Portal of Lao PDR:

www.laopdr.gov.la/

Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

www.mofa.gov.la/