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P R E S S R E L E A S E

EU to appoint dedicated Ambassador to ASEAN

Today, the European External Action Service published a vacancy notice for the recruitment of a dedicated European Union Ambassador to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). This is an important decision, reflecting the EU's growing engagement with ASEAN and underlining its ambition to upgrade the partnership to a strategic one.

The dedicated Ambassador to ASEAN, based in Jakarta, will coordinate the EU's expanding cooperation activities with ASEAN. He or she will represent the EU in all relevant negotiations, coordinate with EU Member States and enhance public diplomacy efforts in relation to EU support for ASEAN integration.

ASEAN brings together ten countries and 600 million people in a region characterised by strong economic growth but also by important political and security challenges. ASEAN plays a key role in building a rules-based regional architecture.

The EU and ASEAN are natural 'partners in integration', who share the same goals: peace, prosperity and democracy. At the recent EU-ASEAN Ministerial on 23 July in Brussels, Ministers underlined the importance of scaling up EU-ASEAN cooperation. They agreed to step up cooperation to enhance connectivity between the two regions; welcomed the EU's commitment to more than double dedicated support for ASEAN's integration and institution building to €170 million (2014-2020); and decided to enhance maritime security cooperation.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780- Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu @EUHighRepSpox
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu @AshtonSpox Maja

Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu

Eamonn Prendergast +32 460 75 32 93 - Eamonn.Prendergast@ec.europa.eu

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The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit, to take place in Milan on 16-17 October, will bring together Heads of State and Government from 53 Asian and European Partners, and will be a key opportunity to further strengthen Europe's ties with Asia.

For further information

Co Chair's Statement of the EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, Brussels, 23 July:

http://eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2014/140723_03_en.pdf

Factsheet on EU-ASEAN Relations

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2014/140722_03_en.pdf

EU-ASEAN in 20 Facts and Figures

http://eeas.europa.eu/asean/docs/key_facts_figures_eu_asean_en.pdf

10th ASEM Summit 16-17 October, Milan, webpage:

www.european-council.europa.eu/asem-2014

ASEM webpage on EEAS website:

http://eeas.europa.eu/asem/index_en.htm
