

# 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 3rd largest trading partner. We are crucial partners commercially with € 215 billion (about US\$ 281 billion) in total trade (in goods and services) between the EU and ASEAN in 2011. ASEAN is the EU's 5th largest trading destination. The EU is ASEAN's largest source of Foreign Direct Investment.
- 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 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
- 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: the EU is the first regional organisation to accede 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 Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.
- **Enhance and strengthen the dialogue on trade and investment** at region-to-region level with the goal of supporting ASEAN integration and to enhanced trade and investment relations between the two regions. Once a year consultations take place between ASEAN Economic Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner. During these annual consultations, ASEAN and EU Economic Ministers review their relations as well as broader issues on the international trade agenda. As a concrete outcome of their dialogue, Ministers adopt a Trade and Investment Work Programme, which includes a series of activities to boost the relationship. A second Trade and Investment Work Programme for 2013-2014 was adopted in March 2013 in Hanoi. In addition, a 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 second AEBS was held in April 2012 in Phnom Penh and a third one in Ha Noi in March 2013. In 2011, an EU-ASEAN Business Council was also created, composed of European Chambers of Commerce and corporate members whose role is to act as an interface for public-private dialogue amongst the two regions.
- **Negotiate Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with ASEAN Member States.** Negotiations for a bilateral FTA with Singapore were concluded in December 2012. Negotiations are on-going with Malaysia and Vietnam and have just started with Thailand. The EU remains open to engage in bilateral FTA negotiations with other ASEAN

Member States which are ready and willing to negotiate a comprehensive and ambitious FTA. Pre-negotiations talks 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 financial and technical assistance.** The EU directs its support at several 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. Third, with other regional and thematic programmes covering not only ASEAN, but also other parts of Asia.
- 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; climate change; 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.

## 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. **All the figures hereafter refer to the present programming period 2007-2013.** In addition to the € 2 billion (about US\$ 2.6 billion) granted to individual ASEAN Member States, the EU is providing around € 70 million (about US\$ 90 million) at regional level through the ASEAN Secretariat. Another € 570 million from the EU budget is channelled to ASEAN through actions in areas such as environment, climate change, forestry, health, education, humanitarian assistance and science. Furthermore, Individual EU Member States also provide further funds to ASEAN.

### Supporting ASEAN Member States

| Country     | Priority Areas   | Million € 2007-13 |
|-------------|--|-------------------|
| Cambodia    | National Strategic Development Plan, Basic Education   | 143               |
| Indonesia   | Education, Trade and Investment, Globalisation, Law Enforcement                                      | 402               |
| Lao PDR     | Government Reform, Sustainable Development, Good Governance and Human Rights, Trade                  | 69                |
| Malaysia    | Dialogue Facility, Trade and Investment  | 8                 |
| Myanmar     | Education, Health, Public Administration Reform, Peace, Trade  | 125               |
| Thailand    | Policy Dialogue Facility covering Trade, Investment, Environment and Climate Change, Governance etc. | 12                |
| Philippines | Poverty Reduction, Health, Trade and Investment, Mindanao Peace Process                              | 128               |
| Vietnam     | Socio-Economic Development Plan, Health  | 298               |

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

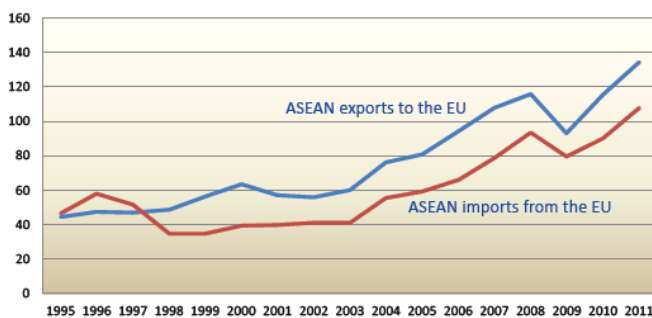
## Strengthening EU-ASEAN Trade and Investment Relations

### Building on Strong Commercial Ties

The EU and ASEAN enjoy very strong commercial ties. The EU is ASEAN's 3rd 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 € 215 billion (about US\$ 281 billion) with ASEAN having a trade surplus of € 18 billion (about US\$ 23 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.



## Supporting the Creation of the ASEAN Community

An EU financial contribution of around € 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                 | Internal Markets     | Education                      |
| Confidence Building               | Customs              | Biodiversity                   |
| International Peace and Mediation | Standards            | Relief and Disaster Management |
| Parliamentarian Diplomacy         | Statistics           | Media                          |
| Asymmetric Risks                  | Trade Liberalisation | Climate Change                 |
|                                   | Energy               | 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 Instrument), which finances dialogue and exchanges on disaster management and preparedness, climate change, science and technology, energy and information society. Support to the Socio-Cultural Community also covers higher education through qualification frameworks, quality assurance and credit transfers and student mobility.

As a rule EU projects to foster ASEAN integration foresee special attention and extra resources for the Least Developed Countries, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, as well as Vietnam (CLMV) with a view to contribute to reduced disparities within the ASEAN region.

### 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.



**In addition, ASEAN benefits from other regional, thematic and humanitarian 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.
- Environment and climate change: cooperation to promote sustainable development and protect biodiversity. A major initiative in this area is Switch-Asia, which is promoting sustainable consumption and production, both at the policy level and by projects involving SMEs (€ 70 million).
- Under the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) support is provided for climate adaptation strategies in the Mekong region as well as to reduce emissions from deforestation (€ 22 million).
- The Forest Law enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative aims to improve sustainability and legality in the forest sector (€ 7 million).
- Regional health hazard programmes: cooperation in combating highly pathogenic diseases (HPED) in Asia (€ 19 million).
- 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.
- Humanitarian support by the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) to respond to disasters such as for example the 2011 floods in Thailand, typhoon Bopha in the Philippines, Cyclone Giri in Myanmar, amounted to around € 304 million; in addition funds were provided for disaster preparedness and response (€ 38 million).
- Aid to uprooted people in the region (€ 81 million).
- Cooperation in the areas of science and innovation (€ 27 million contributing to around 100 projects involving ASEAN scientific institutions).

### 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

### 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.





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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>

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# EU-ASEAN Programme Cooperation

## I. Support to the ASEAN Economic Community

### ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU (ARISE) – (€ 15 million), 2012-2016

The ASEAN Programme for Regional Integration Support (APRIS) phase II (€ 7.2 million), 2006-2010, helped build the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), in particular by promoting institutional connectivity. This involved helping 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.

The new programme, the ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU (ARISE) will ensure continued support to ASEAN in implementing key regional integration objectives 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 end of November 2012 and will operate for 4 years.

### ASEAN-EU 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. The programme has been organising capacity building with a specific focus for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV). It supported the ASEAN-EU Business Summits in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Under this programme, a Public Dialogue Forum series has also been set to reach out to a wider audience (the first in Ha Noi in September 2012 and the second one in Manila in April 2013). The programme will end in 2013. Its current website is <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 Institutional Capacity Building for ASEAN Monitoring and Statistics (COMPASS) of € 7.5 million was decided in 2012. Starting mid-2013 this programme will further strengthen ASEAN capacity for regional statistics and will initiate work on integration monitoring.

### 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. Following an initial phase involving the European Patent Office (EPO), the current phase of the project since the end of 2012 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 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 started by the end of 2012 involving the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

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

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

A Single Market and Production Base 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. One component was successfully implemented by July 2012. This helps to improve the exchange of information between INTERPOL National Central Bureaus in ASEAN capitals and the INTERPOL General Secretariat, 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 being designed. The new programme (€ 3.4 million) will support the ASEAN people to people connectivity agenda by strengthening law enforcement agencies' networks and cooperation at main regional transit hubs as well as by conducting a study on easing visa requirements for ASEAN and non-ASEAN nationals within ASEAN.

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

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

The READI Facility started in 2011 and will run 4 years. The Facility already supports policy dialogue and knowledge development (study visits, exchange programmes) in the areas of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Science and Technology, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Energy. Other areas for which coverage is being prepared include: climate change, education, maritime cooperation and human rights. READI aims to intensify policy dialogue and the sharing of experience between the EU and ASEAN through networking, dialogues, and seminars, for ASEAN to develop its own policy. A topping up by € 3.3 million of the present budget is under preparation with focus on support to ASEAN's Human Rights System.

### **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. Around half of the project funds will be devoted to student mobility thus contributing directly to ASEAN people to people connectivity. The project is expected to start end of 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.

Note: This overview covers only the projects that are carried out through the ASEAN Secretariat. It does not deal with support to individual ASEAN Member States nor other regional projects covering areas such as humanitarian assistance, education, health, environment and climate change.

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