



The EU - ASEAN relationship in twenty facts and figures

EU and ASEAN trade ,trade, trade

1. **The EU was ASEAN's second largest trading partner in 2013.** USD 246.2 billion in goods and services were traded between the two regions in 2013. EU-ASEAN trade grew on average by 7% annually in the period 1993-2013.
2. **The EU is the biggest provider of Foreign Direct Investment into ASEAN.** EU FDI is 22% of the total in 2013.
3. **Bringing business together.** ASEAN-EU Business Summits took place in 2011 (Jakarta), 2012 (Phnom Penh) and 2014 (Hanoi) with business leaders making key recommendations for further improving trade between the two regions.
4. **Freeing up trade.** The EU has concluded a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Singapore and is negotiating FTAs with several other ASEAN countries (Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia). These agreements are stepping stones to a full agreement between the EU and ASEAN as a whole.

EU and ASEAN citizens exchange, travel, learn

5. **10 million people travel between our two regions each year.** Seven million are EU citizens who travel to ASEAN for tourism, business, study, family visits and otherwise, more than from any other partner of ASEAN. These numbers are growing year by year.
6. **A growing exchange of students and scholars.** Each year around 250 ASEAN students receive scholarships under the EU Erasmus Mundus programme and around 25 ASEAN scholars a year benefit from Marie Curie Fellowships. Adding the many scholarships provided by EU Member States, more than 4,000 ASEAN students per year travel to Europe on EU scholarships.
7. **Exchanging knowledge.** More than 212 ASEAN research organisations link up with EU organisations under Research Framework Programme 7. They receive a € 27,4 million from the EU and contribute € 12.2 million. ASEAN-EU Science, Technology and Innovation Days were organised on 21-23 January 2014 in Bangkok.

EU-ASEAN step up political ties

8. **Unprecedented number of top-level EU visits to ASEAN.** The last three years have seen the largest number of high level political visits to South East Asia, including by Presidents Van Rompuy and Barroso, the HR/VP and several Commissioners as well as a marked rise in the visits by EU Member States. In October 2014, the EU and ASEAN met for an informal Leaders' Meeting in Milan, the first Leaders meeting since 2007.
9. **Accession to ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation.** In July 2012, HR/VP Ashton signed the EU's accession to ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation. Two months earlier, EU and ASEAN Ministers adopted in Brunei a Plan of Action for the period 2013 to 2017.
10. **The EU is an active member of the ASEAN Regional Forum.** The EU and Myanmar have co-chaired the ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and the related Defence Officials Dialogue for the year 2013-2014. The EU hosted in March 2014 a dedicated European Security and Defence College (ESDC) training course on Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) open to all ARF members. The EU also took the initiative to organise an ARF training on preventive diplomacy (PD) and mediation, together with Brunei Darussalam in October 2014, which was the first ever PD training in the ARF.



11. **Intensifying dialogue on human rights.** In 2013 EU Special Representative for Human Rights Stavros Lambrinidis met the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), while the same Commission is expected to visit the EU institutions on their second visit in 2015.
12. **Stepping up engagement on non-traditional security.** The EU and ASEAN work together to enhance **crisis response and disaster management**; the EU supports the ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Assistance. The EU and ASEAN organised a conference on **maritime security cooperation** in Jakarta in November 2014, to exchange lessons learned on integrated and cooperative approaches to maritime issues.

EU-ASEAN partnering in integration and connectivity

13. **Natural connectivity partners.** As two leading regional integration initiatives, the EU and ASEAN regularly share their experiences - both successes and challenges – of how to make integration work. In February 2014, the ASEAN Connectivity Coordination Committee visited the EU.
14. **Towards air transport agreement.** Air traffic between the EU and ASEAN nearly doubled over the last 15 years to reach more than 10 million passengers and is expected to grow 5% per year over the next 20 years. At the first EU-ASEAN Aviation Summit held in Singapore on 11-12 February 2014 EU and ASEAN decided to negotiate a comprehensive air transport agreement. The EU supports ASEAN's endeavor to establish a single aviation market by 2015 (ASEAN Air Transport Integration Project, 5 million €, 2012-2016).

EU-ASEAN cooperation vast and growing

15. **The EU is a major development partner of ASEAN and the biggest donor to the ASEAN Secretariat.** In the upcoming budget cycle (2014-2020), the EU will support the ASEAN integration and the Secretariat with € 170 million, more than double the amount under the previous cycle (close to € 70 million, 2007-2013).
16. **Supporting establishment the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).** In 2012 the EU launched its third programme in support of the ASEAN Economic Community set to be achieved by 2015. The new EU programme supports measures that will facilitate the free movement of goods across ASEAN and help build a ASEAN "single market and production base" (EU ARISE programme, 15 million € 2012 - 2015).
17. **Supporting border management.** Successive EU border management programme support, including with the support of INTERPOL, the exchange of information between immigration officials in ASEAN capitals and support the easing of visa requirements for ASEAN and non-ASEAN nationals within the region (EU-ASEAN Migration and Border Management Programme, 4.7 million €, 2012-2015).
18. **Supporting higher education.** The EU supported the creation of an ASEAN Inter-University Network. A new programme will improve the comparability of university qualifications and make it easier to transfer credits obtained at one ASEAN university to another one, promoting people-to-people connectivity (EU SHARE programme, 10 million €, 2013 - 2017).
19. **Supporting harmonisation of statistics as a basis for smart decision-making.** The EU supports the harmonisation and integration of statistical data among ASEAN Member States (EU-ASEAN COMPASS, € 7.5 million, 2010-2014).
20. **And more.** Through a number of world-wide EU programmes, ASEAN and the EU cooperate in the areas of energy and climate change, the protection of biodiversity and the promotion of good governance.