



European Union  
Delegation to Singapore

**MEDIA INVITATION**

**EU-SINGAPORE DIALOGUE: Facilitating Green and Sustainable Investments in Southeast Asia via the Global Gateway**



The EU-Singapore Dialogue: Facilitating Green and Sustainable Investments in Southeast Asia via the Global Gateway takes place this Thursday **25<sup>th</sup> January**. This dialogue is co-organised by the EU Delegation to Singapore and EuroCham Singapore, with support from the EU’s Foreign Policy Instruments Facility and the EU-ASEAN Business Council. EU Ambassador to Singapore Iwona Piórko will deliver the opening remarks and this will be followed by a keynote speech by Dr Kay Parplies, Senior Economist and Head of Unit for External Action Guarantees at EU’s Directorate-General for International Partnerships. Leading experts will steer and participate in two panel discussions. Ms Sunita Lukkoo, Head of European Investment Bank (EIB) for Southeast Asia and the Pacific will speak about how EIB supports green and sustainable finance in the region.

We invite your journalist, photographer and television crew to cover the event.

**Event Details**

**Thursday, 25th Jan 2024**

**2-6pm**

**At Pan Pacific Singapore**

**7 Raffles Boulevard**

**Singapore 039595**

As countries in Southeast Asia continue to grow, it is estimated that large investments of approximately US\$210 billion a year through to 2030 will be needed to build sustainable infrastructure. Infrastructure investments in ASEAN are currently driven by governments, and there is a need for greater private sector involvement and multilateral institutions to help bridge the infrastructure development gap. The challenges ahead to address climate change will require massive investments into clean and renewable energy, climate resilient and sustainable cities, and make a compelling case for a regional, integrated approach in sustainable investment. To ensure long-term sustainable impact, there must be a common understanding of what defines sustainability and the relevant environmental and social factors to consider.

In this context, **the EU launched its Global Gateway initiative in 2021**, a contribution to narrowing the global investment gap in infrastructure worldwide. It aims to mobilise up to **€300 billion of investment** funding from the EU and its member states, and focuses on the digital sector, healthcare, transport, climate and energy, and education and research. The Global Gateway's priorities in ASEAN are the **green transition and sustainable connectivity**, with the EU aiming to mobilise **€10 billion in investments** specifically for these purposes.

The EU-Singapore Dialogue intends to present the Global Gateway approach and priorities under the Southeast Asia context, provide the case for sustainable and responsible investments, and explore the opportunities available for the private and institutional actors.

**About Global Gateway:** Launched in 2021, Global Gateway is a European strategy to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport sectors and to strengthen health, education and research systems across the world. Global Gateway is an alternative offer connecting the world through investments and partnerships following a set of values, principles and high standards, to enhance good governance, transparency, and sustainability.

Global Gateway is the EU's contribution to narrowing the global investment gap worldwide. It establishes the EU a trusted partner to design sustainable, quality projects and ensure projects are implemented in a transparent way, do not create unsustainable levels of debt and deliver lasting social and economic benefits to local communities.

Global Gateway aims to mobilise up to €300 billion in investments through a Team Europe approach, bringing together the EU, its Member States and their financial and development institutions. The focus is on smart investments in quality infrastructure, respecting the highest social and environmental standards, in line with the EU's interests and values: rule of law, human rights and international norms and standards.

## Programme

Event starts at 2pm with registration from 1.30pm

- Opening Remarks by **Iwona Piórko**, European Union Ambassador to Singapore
- Keynote Speech and Presentation by **Dr Kay Parplies**, Senior Economist and Head of Unit for External Action Guarantees at EU's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA): How can the EU's Global Gateway help investors scale up financing in green infrastructure in South-East Asia
- **Panel Discussion 1:** Priorities for connectivity, stability and prosperity in Southeast Asia and how can the Global Gateway help address them
  - Dr Kay Parplies, Senior Economist and Head of Unit for External Action Guarantees at DG INTPA (International Partnership)
  - Ms Shi Min Tan, Head of the Markets & Ecosystem Development Division of the Sustainability Group at MAS
  - Dr Terry van Gevelt, Associate Professor of Urban Sustainability and Lee Kong Chian Fellow at the College of Integrative Studies at SMU
  - Ms Victoria Hilda Rigby Delmon, Regional Upstream and Advisory Head, Infrastructure, Asia Pacific at International Finance Corporation (IFC)

**Moderator:** Prof Yeo Lay Hwee, Singapore Institute for International Affairs

- **Presentation on how the European Investment Bank (EIB) supports green and sustainable finance in the region by Ms Sunita Lukkhoo**, Head of EIB for Southeast Asia and the Pacific
- **Panel Discussion 2:** How can institutional and private sector play a role in scaling up sustainable investments?
  - Mr Abhishek Badkul, Regional Co-Head – ASEAN and Australia, Project & Export Finance at Standard Chartered Singapore
  - Mr Marat Zapparov, Chief Executive Officer at Pentagreen Capital
  - Mr Maurits Fliehe Boeschoten, Senior Advisor at FMO: Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank
  - Ms Sunita Lukkhoo, Head of EIB for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

**Moderator:** Federico Donato, EuroCham Singapore

### MEDIA CONTACT

**Deepika SHETTY, Press Officer**  
European Union Delegation to Singapore  
Tel: 8339-8749  
[Deepika.SHETTY@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Deepika.SHETTY@eeas.europa.eu)

**About the European Union:** The European Union (EU) is an economic and political union of 27 Member States. Together, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. With the help of over 140 diplomatic representations around the world, the EU cooperates closely with its Member States to promote the values and interests of the EU and establish networks and partnerships, promoting multilateral-based solutions to common challenges. The EU is the largest trade block in the world, as well as the world's main source and the top global destination of foreign direct investment. In 2012, the EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for advancing the causes of peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights.

The 27 EU Member States are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

**About the European Union (EU ) Delegation to Singapore:** The EU Delegation to Singapore opened on **30<sup>th</sup> June 2004**. Since then, the EU's diplomatic representation has worked to promote closer ties between the EU and Singapore. The wide-ranging relationship has further strengthened and expanded in its scope over the years. In close coordination with the diplomatic missions of the EU Member States, the Delegation ensures consistency and effectiveness of the EU's external action in Singapore.

With 27 countries, nearly 450 million people and the largest GDP in the world, the EU is of increasing importance to Singapore, especially since the entry into force of the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) on 21 November 2019, and the elevation of its relationship with ASEAN to a Strategic Partnership in December 2020. The Delegation covers a range of issues such as trade, foreign policy, climate change, environment, transport, industrial policy, research, science, technology as well as education projects such as the Study in Europe higher education fair and EU at Your School. On the cultural front, the Delegation presents Studio Residencies for Southeast Asian Artists in the European Union - SEA AiR (in partnership with Nanyang Technological University's Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore) and the annual European Film Festival (EUFF).

On **20th July 2023**, EU Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis and Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister Gan Kim Yong announced the launch of the EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement (DTA) negotiations. The DTA aims to enhance the economic partnership and is underpinned by the 2019 EUSFTA. In the course of 2023, two rounds of negotiations took place with additional sessions scheduled for 2024. The DTA builds on the **EU-Singapore Digital Partnership** which was signed in Brussels on **1<sup>st</sup> February 2023**. This Partnership expands the robust EU-Singapore relationship into the digital realm, which has a transformative potential for the future of our economies. The Digital Partnership builds on long-standing cooperation between the EU and Singapore on trade, research and technology. It will also serve as a strategic pathfinder for closer region-to-region digital connectivity. On the same occasion, Digital Trade Principles, a key deliverable of the Digital Partnership, were signed as well. The Principles seek to facilitate the free flow of goods and services in the digital economy, while upholding privacy.

Follow the EU Ambassador to Singapore Iwona Piórko on X: [@IwonaPiorkoEU](https://twitter.com/IwonaPiorkoEU)

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