

ASEM

factsheet



Asia-Europe Meeting ASEM12 - BRUSSELS 2018

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is a unique, informal platform for dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe on the big challenges of a fast-changing world, such as Connectivity, trade and investment, climate change, but also broad security challenges such as counter-terrorism, migration, maritime security and cyber issues.

Bringing together 53 partners from across Europe and Asia, ASEM is the main multilateral platform linking Europe and Asia with significant global weight: **ASEM partners represent around 60% of global GDP, 60% of global population and 60% of global trade**. ASEM main purpose is to provide a platform to foster political dialogue, strengthen economic cooperation and tackle global challenges together. In many respects, recent developments in the international landscape have increased the value of ASEM as a key building block for an open, cooperative and rules-based international system.

ASEM is conducted as an informal and flexible process on the basis of equal partnership, mutual respect and mutual benefit. ASEM aims to promote the exchange of ideas and best practices and thus act as a breeding ground for new policy ideas. In short, ASEM is the most influential comprehensive partnership between Asia and Europe, boosting Connectivity in all its dimensions between the two regions.

ASEM DAY 1 March 2018 **Promoting connectivity, partnership and cooperation between Asia and Europe**

Every 1 March, ASEM Day promotes connectivity and partnership between Asia and Europe. In Europe and in Asia, opportunities for exchange and encounters involve young people, students, lecturers, the business world or the diplomatic community

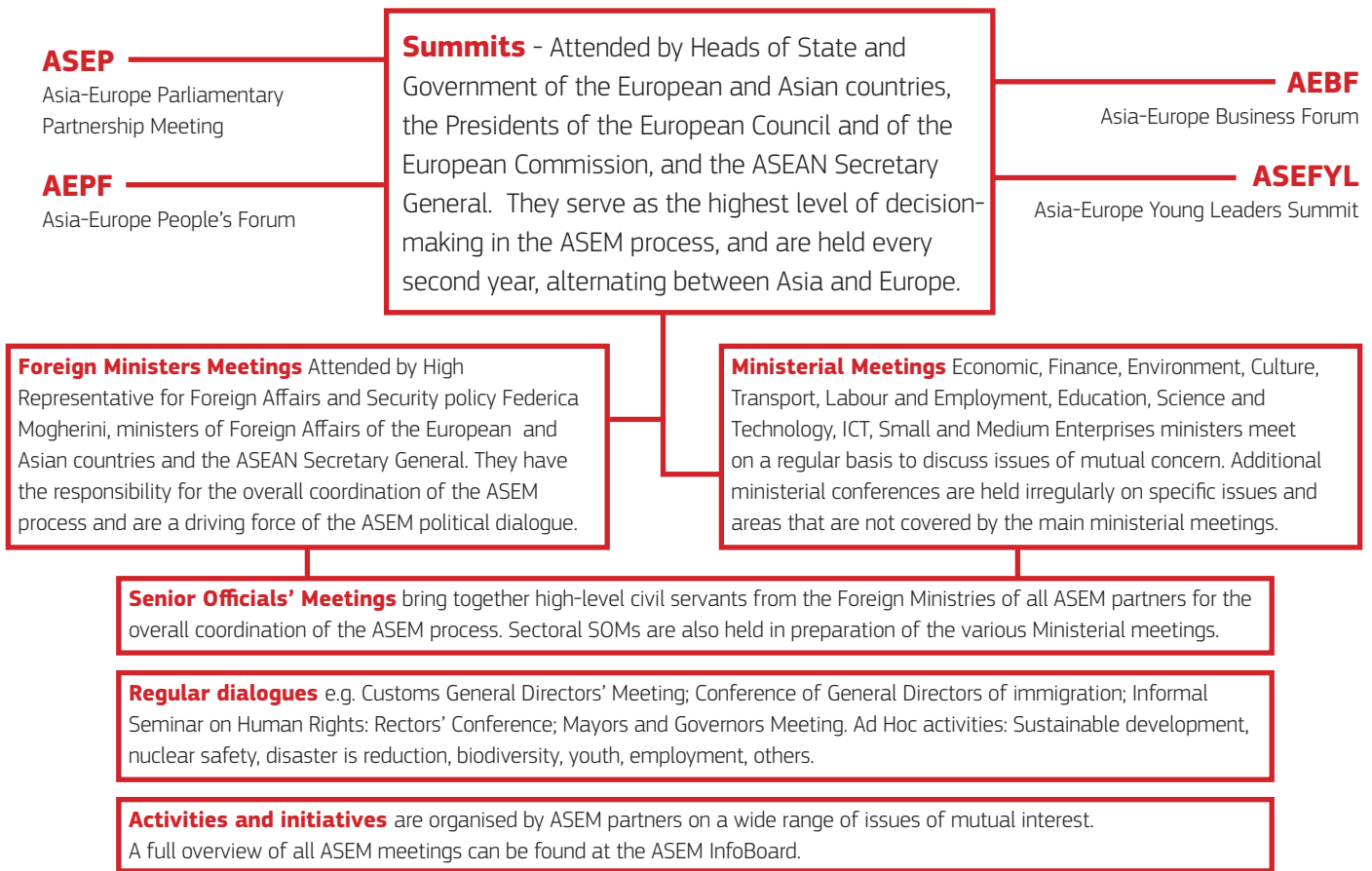
ASEM Partners

The initial ASEM partnership which was inaugurated in Bangkok, Thailand on 1-2 March 1996 consisted of just 15 EU member states and 7 ASEAN member states plus China, Japan, Korea and the European Commission. Today **ASEM comprises 51 partner countries**: the 28 Member States of the European Union¹ plus Norway and Switzerland on the European side and the 10 ASEAN countries² plus Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Russia on the Asian side. It also includes **2 institutional partners**: the **European Union** and the **ASEAN Secretariat**.

1. European Union: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

2. Association of Southeast Asian Nations: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

How it works ASEM works through meetings and activities organised at different levels.



At the 11th ASEM Summit held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 15-17 July 2016, leaders outlined their decision "to mainstream **connectivity** in all its dimensions, including political, economic, digital, institutional, socio-cultural and people-to-people, into all relevant ASEM activities". The Summit also included the decision to establish an ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC) for a term of two years. APGC prepared an ASEM connectivity definition which was formally adopted at the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting held on 20-21 November 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, by all ASEM partners. This definition is the basis for future work including the **ASEM Connectivity Monitor** to be presented at the next ASEM Summit in Brussels.

ASEM has no secretariat

Foreign ministers and their senior officials have an overall coordinating role within the ASEM process. They are assisted in this by an informal group of coordinators: two from the Asian side (currently Philippines representing the ASEAN and Pakistan the non-ASEAN (NESA) countries) and two from the European side (the European External Action Service (EEAS) as the permanent coordinator and the rotating EU Presidency, in 2018 Bulgaria followed by Austria).

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

is an international non-profit organisation, based in Singapore, with the aim to promote cultural ties and foster people-to-people contacts between both civil society and business leaders from the two regions (www.asef.org).

Upcoming Meetings

The 12th ASEM Summit will be hosted by the EU and held in Brussels, Belgium, on 18-19 October 2018.

The Summit will be chaired by the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk. Jean Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission will also take part, accompanied by Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

In 2018, the following ASEM Ministerial Meetings are foreseen:

Cultural Ministers, 1-2 March 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria

Finance Ministers, 26 April 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria



For more information

eeas.europa.eu/asem

www.aseminfoboard.org

