

Joint Press Statement

25th ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Meeting convenes in Jakarta

1. The 25th Meeting of the ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) was held on Tuesday, 30 January 2018 in Jakarta.
2. The meeting recalled the 40th Anniversary of the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations in 2017 and the celebrations to mark the milestone anniversary, culminating in the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit and the participation of the President of the European Council Mr. Donald Tusk in the East Asia Summit lunch as Guest of the Philippine Chair in Manila on 14 November 2017.
3. ASEAN and the EU further reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen ASEAN-EU relations, following the conclusion of the 21st ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok from 13 to 14 October 2016. Both sides looked forward to the 22nd ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in Europe in 2018 to continue discussions towards a Strategic Partnership. The EU also recalled the proposal by President Tusk to ASEAN Leaders to meet in the margins of the ASEM Summit in Brussels in October.
4. ASEAN and the EU exchanged views on developments in their respective regions. The EU welcomed the ongoing work to implement the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together and its Blueprints, as well as ASEAN's important contribution to promoting dialogue and cooperation for peace, security, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. ASEAN noted the robust economic growth and job creation in all EU Member States, and the important developments in the EU Defence and Security policies, and welcomed the EU's interest in furthering engagement with the region through all ASEAN-led processes.
5. Both sides welcomed the growing dialogue and engagement between the EU and ASEAN on broad security and defence related issues, including the EU's active engagement in the ASEAN Regional Forum. Both sides underlined the importance of further developing the dialogue on security and crisis management, exchanging lessons learned and seeking opportunities for practical cooperation as part of ongoing efforts to elevate ASEAN-EU relations towards a Strategic Partnership.
6. ASEAN and the EU highlighted the unique nature, the deepening and the intensification of their partnership with considerable progress being made in the political-security, economic and socio-cultural fields and in the development of new areas of cooperation. In this connection, both sides welcomed the final assessment of the implementation of the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to Strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership (2013-2017). The meeting also welcomed the adoption of the successor ASEAN-EU Plan of Action (2018-2022) in Manila in August 2017.
7. Both sides welcomed the holding of the ASEAN-EU High-Level Dialogue on Sustainable Development: Towards Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Bangkok on 17 November 2017 and agreed to work towards concrete cooperation in the implementation of the SDGs. Furthermore, they looked forward to the ASEAN-EU Forum of Strategic Thinkers, to be held in February 2018, both launched by EU and ASEAN Foreign Ministers at the 21st AEMM.

8. ASEAN and the EU took note of the likely need for a broader, more regular dialogue on global and regional environmental and societal challenges, such as plastic wastes and marine litter, biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation.
9. ASEAN and the EU welcomed the strengthening of their cooperation including through projects and initiatives in non-traditional security areas, including on maritime security, preventive diplomacy and mediation, irregular migration, trafficking in persons, cyber security, counterterrorism, counter violent extremism and transnational crimes. The meeting welcomed the initiatives taken by the EU in the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum in 2017, in particular the Seminar on Trafficking in Persons (Semarang, April 2017), the third edition of the Workshop Training on Preventive Diplomacy, Mediation and Early Warning Systems (Yangon, June 2017), and the co-chairing of the ARF ISM on Maritime Security, together with Australia and Vietnam, as well as the Third EU-ASEAN Common Security and Defence Policy Orientation Seminar (Rome, June 2017), with a fourth one to be held in 2018. The meeting looked forward to the holding of the second ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Counterterrorism and the preparation of the second EU-ASEAN Work Plan on Transnational Crime.
10. The Meeting noted with appreciation the convening of the 4th ASEAN-EU High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Maritime Security Cooperation in Manila, the Philippines, from 5- to 6 October 2017, which identified future areas of concrete cooperation between ASEAN and the EU in the domain of maritime security. The meeting also acknowledged the first and very fruitful cross modal EU-ASEAN Transport Dialogue which took place in Singapore on 11 October 2017. Both sides look forward to deepening transport relations in the second Dialogue to take place in Phuket, Thailand, on 9 May 2018.
11. The Meeting welcomed the second ASEAN-EU Policy Dialogue on Human Rights held in Bohol, the Philippines, on 29 November 2017 which discussed issues of mutual interest with ASEAN bodies and civil society.
12. ASEAN and the EU reiterated their commitment to further strengthening the existing close trade and investment relations between both regions. They welcomed the progress made in 2017 on the trade agenda, both bilaterally and at the region-to-region level, towards the resumption of the ASEAN-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations.
13. Both sides welcomed the progress of the negotiations of an ambitious and forward looking ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement and agreed that, once finalised, the CATA will strengthen air connectivity between ASEAN and the EU, to the benefit of both regions.
14. Both sides acknowledged the successful implementation and tangible results of the many ongoing projects in the area of development cooperation, working in support of the ASEAN integration processes across the three pillars of ASEAN.
15. ASEAN and the EU welcomed the increase in EU funding for development cooperation projects from €70 million to around €200 million in the period 2014-2020, to help boost ASEAN integration and to support the implementation of the new ASEAN Vision 2025: Forging Ahead Together and its Blueprints. Both sides welcomed the launching of three important programmes for €85 million.

16. The EU ASEAN Regional Integration Support Programme (ARISE Plus) will address a broad range of ASEAN's economic and trade connectivity priorities. Both sides also welcomed the launch of the Enhanced EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI), which received significantly increased funding in order to further underpin the already broad spectrum of policy dialogues and exchanges among ASEAN and the EU. The new Programme for Safe and Fair Labour Migration for all Women in ASEAN countries is part of stronger focus on gender in the bilateral cooperation. The Meeting also welcomed the new EU commitment to Support the AHA Centre (EUSAHA – EUR 10 million) for capacity building and to expand the membership of the Emergency Response Assessment Team.
17. Both sides welcomed preliminary discussions on future projects and initiatives to enhance EU's engagement in ASEAN and South East Asia across the three Pillars, including initiatives relevant to the 2018 Our Ocean Conference in Bali, Market Competition, Countering Violent Extremism and the Copernicus workshops scheduled for 2018.
18. The 25th Meeting of the ASEAN-EU JCC was co-chaired by Her Excellency Ms. Phasporn Sangasubana, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to ASEAN, Country Coordinator for the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations, and by Mr. David Daly, Head of the South-East Asia Division of the European External Action Service, together with Ms. Henriette Geiger, Head of Unit of East, Southeast Asia and the Pacific of the European Commission Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development. The Meeting was opened by Her Excellency Ms. Phasporn Sangasubana, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to ASEAN, and His Excellency Mr. Francisco Fontan, Ambassador of the EU to ASEAN and attended by members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, officials from the ASEAN Secretariat and the EU, as well as representatives of EU Member States.

Jakarta
30 January 2018