

Press statement of the ASEAN-EU commemorative summit on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN-EU dialogue relations

- We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of ASEAN, the President of the European Council and the Secretary-General of ASEAN, have gathered in Manila on the 14th of November 2017, to participate in an ASEAN-European Union (EU) Commemorative Summit, marking the 40th anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations.
- We recognize the positive contributions that ASEAN and the EU, as two of the world's most advanced and successful regional organisations, have made to peace, security, stability, inclusive growth and sustainable development of Southeast Asia, Europe and the world, as well as in addressing global challenges and reinforcing regionalism and multilateralism.
- We emphasise the importance of the shared values and common interests that bind the two regions in a long-standing and unique relationship as “partners in integration”, such as the principles of mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality and territorial integrity for all states, and including other principles of the United Nations (UN) Charter, international law and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), to which the EU acceded in 2012.
- We underline the importance of the respect of the rule of law, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, and peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the relevant standards and recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- We intend to accelerate efforts towards a Strategic Partnership between the EU and ASEAN by strengthening all areas of dialogue and cooperation. We welcome the recent adoption of the new ASEAN-EU Plan of Action 2018-2022 and the *Joint Statement on the Paris Agreement: Reaffirming Commitment to Cooperation to Address the Shared Challenge of Climate Change*. We also welcome the participation of the President of the European Council as Guest of the East Asia Summit (EAS) Chair for the first time.
- The EU reiterates its support for ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional architecture in East Asia and its appreciation for ASEAN's role as the driving force for, and its important contribution to, promoting dialogue, moderation and cooperation for peace, security, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. ASEAN welcomes the interest of the EU in furthering engagement with the region through all ASEAN-led processes. The EU reiterates its support for the ASEAN Community Vision 2025: Forging Ahead Together towards a rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred Community.
- We reaffirm the importance of enhancing the strategic connectivity and the economic partnership between ASEAN and the EU with the aim to increasing trade and investment between the two regions based on transparency, openness and sustainability, for the benefit of the people and reaffirm their commitment to concluding an ambitious and forward-looking ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement that reflects ASEAN's and the EU's shared vision and aspirations and to intensify work towards the resumption of the ASEAN-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, noting the status of the bilateral FTAs between several ASEAN Member States and the EU.
- We reaffirm the commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as ending all forms of poverty.
- We value EU-ASEAN development cooperation across the three pillars of the ASEAN Community, with the EU doubling its financial support for this purpose. This includes current programmes such as the Enhanced-Regional EU ASEAN Dialogue Instrument Human Rights Facility (E-READI HRF), the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU-Plus (ARISE-Plus), the EU Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (EU-SHARE), the Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN (SUPA) and the Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP).
- We reaffirm the importance of people-to-people contacts and linkages involving, among others, youth, media, academics, think-tank institutions, parliamentary bodies and civil societies; promote cooperation on education as well as encourage mobility of students and academics between ASEAN and the EU higher education institutions; and enhance cooperation in science, technology and innovation.
- We reaffirm our support to one another's regional integration and community-building efforts. We resolve to work together to reinforce an inclusive and rules-based international order and to support the effective functioning of regional and multilateral institutions.

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