

24th ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Meeting convenes in Jakarta

1. The 24th Meeting of the ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) was held on 2 March 2017 in Jakarta.
2. The meeting noted that 2017 marked the 40th Anniversary of the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations, and further reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen ASEAN-EU relations, following the conclusions of the 21st ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting held in Bangkok on 13-14 October 2016.
3. 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 welcomed the interest of the EU in furthering engagement with the region through all ASEAN-led processes.
4. 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 strategic partnership.
5. 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 substantial implementation of the cooperation activities in the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to Strengthen the ASEAN-EU Partnership (2013-2017). The meeting also discussed next Plan of Action to Strengthen the ASEAN-EU Partnership (2018-2022).
6. 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 several initiatives taken by the EU in the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum in 2017, in particular the Workshop on Mainstreaming the Prevention of Violent Extremism (Brussels, February 2017), the upcoming 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).
7. The Meeting noted with appreciation the convening of the 3rd ASEAN-EU High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Maritime Security Cooperation in Bangkok, Thailand on

15-16 September 2016, which identified and proposed future areas of concrete cooperation between ASEAN and the EU in the domain of maritime security and preventive diplomacy, welcomed by the EU and ASEAN Foreign Ministers at the 21st AEMM in October 2016. These areas will include information sharing on a voluntary basis, in particular best practices for regional integration and operational experiences, inter-agency cooperation and the development of work plans. The Meeting looked forward to the convening of the 4th ASEAN-EU High Level Dialogue on Maritime Security Cooperation to be held in 2017 in the Philippines.

8. 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 2016 on the trade agenda between the two regions, both at the bilateral and region-to-region level.
9. Both sides welcomed the start of the negotiations of an ambitious ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement and the excellent progress made so far. The parties agreed that, once finalised, the CATA will strengthen air connectivity between ASEAN and the EU, to the benefit of both regions.
10. 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.
11. ASEAN and the EU welcomed the increase in EU funding for development cooperation projects from €70 million to €196 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 ongoing preparations of the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU Programme Plus (ARISE Plus), which will support a broad range of ASEAN's economic and trade connectivity priorities. Both sides also welcomed the conclusion of the Financing Agreement on the Enhanced EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI), which received a significantly increased funding in order to further intensify the already broad spectrum of policy dialogues and exchanges among ASEAN and the EU. The Meeting also welcomed the recent start of two new programmes, "*Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN*", and "*Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN*", which will both support ASEAN's efforts in addressing challenges in the areas of climate change, environmental protection and disaster management.
12. The meeting discussed events and initiatives to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN and the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations in 2017, which also marks the 60th Anniversary of the Treaties of Rome and the creation of the European Union.
13. Both sides further looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-EU High-Level Dialogue on Sustainable Development Goals and the ASEAN-EU Forum of Strategic Thinkers, to be held in 2017, both launched by EU and ASEAN Foreign Ministers at the 21st AEMM.
14. The 24th Meeting of the ASEAN-EU JCC was co-chaired by Her Excellency Ms. Busadee Santipitaks, 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 Mr. Jorge de la Caballeria, Head of Unit of Development

Coordination South and South East Asia of the European Commission Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development. The Meeting was opened by Her Excellency Ms. Busadee Santipitaks, 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
2 March 2017