

ASEAN-EU LEADERS' MEETING, 19 OCTOBER 2018

PRESS STATEMENT

The ASEAN-EU Leaders' Meeting was held in Brussels, Belgium, on 19 October 2018. From ASEAN, the Meeting was attended by Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and 2018 Chair of ASEAN, H.E. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand and incoming Chair of ASEAN H.E. Prayut Chan-o-cha, and the Secretary-General of ASEAN H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi. From the EU, the Meeting was attended by President of the European Council H.E. Donald Tusk, President of the European Commission H.E. Jean-Claude Juncker, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission H.E. Federica Mogherini, and Commissioner for Transport H.E. Violeta Bulc.

The Meeting reaffirmed the longstanding and multifaceted relationship between ASEAN and the EU. ASEAN welcomed the EU's interest in elevating relations to a Strategic Partnership. Both sides looked forward to the expeditious conclusion of a mutually beneficial ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (CATA), which would improve connectivity between our regions and further deepen our people-to-people links. Both sides also agreed to explore the resumption of negotiations on the ASEAN-EU Free Trade Agreement. ASEAN welcomed the EU's support for the ASEAN Smart Cities Network, and also looked forward to enhancing cooperation in areas including counterterrorism and countering violent extremism, cybersecurity, climate change and sustainable development.

The Meeting also discussed regional and international developments of mutual concern, and reiterated our shared interest in upholding multilateralism and the international trading system. Both sides agreed to further strengthen ASEAN-EU cooperation across all areas and on shared global challenges, in order to contribute to efforts to maintain regional peace and prosperity. ASEAN and the EU looked forward to the 22nd ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting, to be held in Brussels on 21 January 2019.