



**THE THIRTEENTH AEM-RUSSIA CONSULTATION  
19 September 2024, Vientiane, Lao PDR**

**JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT**

1. The Thirteenth AEM-Russia Consultation was held on 19 September 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Consultation was co-chaired by H.E. Malaithong KOMMASITH, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR and H.E. Vladimir Ilichev, Deputy Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation. The Meeting also welcomed the participation of H.E. Filipus Nino Pereira, Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as an observer.
2. The Meeting noted that according to ASEAN statistics for 2023, the two-way trade between ASEAN and Russia reached USD 15.8 billion. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Russia to ASEAN in 2023 amounted to USD 200.7 million.
3. The Meeting exchanged views on regional and global economic challenges that could likely impact supply chain resiliency in the region, such as climate change, inflationary pressures, among others. The Meeting reaffirmed their commitment to further enhance economic integration and cooperation, particularly in the areas of digital transformation and sustainability, to navigate these challenges and strengthen the supply chain resiliency.
4. The Meeting noted the progress of the *ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Work Programme 2021-2025* that has been implemented through various joint projects and activities in 2023-2024. The Meeting underscored the importance of strengthening the engagement between ASEAN and Russia to further promote economic relations through joint activities in the areas of mutual interest, including trade and investment promotion, tourism promotion, digital transformation, agriculture, energy transition, science and technology, climate change, and creative economy. The Meeting also noted that in January 2024, the Russian Federation has been accepted as ASEAN Digital Senior Officials' Meeting (ADGSOM)'s Dialogue Partner. The Meeting noted the results of the kick-off expert meeting on climate change between the ASEAN Secretariat and Russia on 6 August 2024, including the possibility to conduct the full-fledged ASEAN-Russia climate change consultation. Moreover, the Meeting also welcomed the resumption of the ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership Financial Fund in 2024.
5. The Meeting welcomed the progress of activities pertaining to the Programme of Cooperation (PoC) to implement the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) on Economic Cooperation in 2023, particularly the successful convening of the ASEAN-EAEU days and related events held on 20-21 November 2023 at the ASEAN Headquarters/ASEAN Secretariat. The Meeting noted the proposal from the EEC to convene the ASEAN Days at the EEC headquarters in Moscow. The Meeting further noted the mutual interest of ASEAN and the EEC to develop cooperation in the field of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through highlighting the contribution of regional integration to the achievement of the SDGs and welcomed bilateral and multilateral joint events on SDGs, including at the sidelines of the UN and its agencies, and key international forums. The Meeting welcomed the initiative

to hold a joint seminar on strategic development for exchanging best integration practices and identifying new promising areas of cooperation. The Meeting also underlined the importance of the implementation of the second stage of the Seminar on Digital Transformation in the EAEU and ASEAN in 2025.

6. The Meeting acknowledged the role of the Russia-ASEAN Business Council (RABC) in strengthening cooperation between business communities in ASEAN, Russia and in the EAEU region through organising economic forums, conferences, roundtables and workshops as well as sharing best business practices. The Meeting noted the successful convening of the ASEAN-EAEU Business Dialogue, held on 6 June 2024 at the sidelines of the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), and welcomed the convening of the Russia – ASEAN Business Dialogue at the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum in September 2024. The Meeting also welcomed the initiative of RABC to hold a special session on economic cooperation between ASEAN and Eurasian region at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2024 in October in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

7. The Meeting acknowledged the successful conclusion of the Thirteenth World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC13) held on 26 February – 2 March 2024 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, including WTO Members' resolve to preserve and strengthen the ability of the multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core, to provide meaningful impetus to respond to current trade challenges, take advantage of available opportunities, and ensure the WTO's proper functioning. The Meeting was also pleased to note specific outcomes of the WTO MC13 that reiterated the centrality of the development dimension in the work of the WTO. The Meeting, in particular, welcomed the Ministerial Decision on the Accession of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the WTO Agreement. The Meeting acknowledged that Timor-Leste's accession to the WTO is an important stepping stone for Timor-Leste's accession to ASEAN.

8. The Meeting noted the progress in the implementation of the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN adopted at the 42nd ASEAN Summit. Encouraged by Timor-Leste's commitment, the Meeting reaffirmed its support to continue providing capacity building and technical assistance to facilitate Timor-Leste's integration into the mainstream of ASEAN-Russia economic relations. The Meeting also encouraged the Timor-Leste government to intensify efforts towards its accession to ASEAN.