

## **Joint Declaration on EU-ASEAN Aviation Cooperation**

**Adopted at the first EU-ASEAN Aviation Summit  
Singapore, 11-12 February 2014**

1. The first EU-ASEAN Aviation Summit was held on 11-12 February 2014 in Singapore, jointly organised by the European Commission and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The EU Delegation was led by Mr Siim Kallas, Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Transport while the ASEAN side was led by the Minister of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR, Mr Sommad Pholsena (currently the Chair of ASEAN Transport Ministers). At the Summit, the co-organisers adopted this Joint Declaration.
2. The EU-ASEAN Aviation Summit was highly successful in bringing together some 300 leading representatives of the ASEAN and EU aviation sectors from public authorities, airlines, airports and aerospace industries as well as service providers.
3. Air traffic between the EU and ASEAN has been growing steadily in recent years and nearly doubled over the last 15 years to reach more than 10 million passengers in 2012. With a combined population of 1.1 billion, the EU-ASEAN air transport market is of increasing strategic importance to both sides.
4. The Aviation Summit addressed a wide range of areas of mutual interest and challenges for both regions, which included in particular:
  - Intra and inter-regional integration and market liberalisation, and the prospects for further co-operation between the two regions;
  - Market outlook and business opportunities within and between the two regions;
  - Aviation safety policies and the potential for regulatory co-operation within and between the two regions;
  - Air traffic management and airports and the potential for co-operation between the EU and ASEAN in these areas;
  - Capacity building in the areas of human resource development and training.
5. The EU side explained the development and benefits of the EU Single Aviation Market (SAM) and the external aviation policy on the basis of which the EU interacts with partner countries. The ASEAN side presented a detailed progress report on market opening and integration within the ASEAN SAM as well as an update on the process of regulatory convergence within ASEAN, notably in the areas of aviation safety, security and air traffic management.

12 February 2014

ASEAN is in the process of creating an integrated SAM which has many similarities with the SAM that the EU has developed over the past two decades. In this respect, the two sides recognised and stressed the significant potential for further cooperation and the important role that the EU-funded ASEAN Air Transport Integration Project (AATIP) is playing in supporting the creation of the ASEAN SAM, especially in the areas of aviation safety and air traffic management.

6. The Aviation Summit has served as a useful platform for deepening the strategic aviation dialogue between ASEAN and the EU and for identifying priority areas and ways forward to strengthen future EU-ASEAN relations in all parts of the aviation value chain. The presentations made and the discussions held during the Aviation Summit demonstrated the benefits of regional integration of air transport markets and the significant economic benefits from a comprehensive air transport cooperation, agreement and related arrangements between both sides, which would offer new opportunities for both the ASEAN and EU aviation industries.
7. Both sides noted the Communication issued by the European Commission on 27 September 2012 entitled "*The EU's External Aviation Policy – Addressing Future Challenges*", which highlighted that the many similarities between the creation of the EU and ASEAN SAMs will offer new interesting opportunities for cooperation between the EU and ASEAN and should at some stage, lead to a comprehensive EU-ASEAN aviation agreement.
8. The interest expressed by the ASEAN Transport Ministers in December 2012 to deepen cooperation with the EU in the aviation sector with the aim of concluding a comprehensive air transport agreement between ASEAN and the EU was reiterated during the Aviation Summit. The ASEAN side invited the European Commission to launch the internal process necessary to obtain a mandate to open negotiations on such an agreement.
9. Both sides also took note of the European Parliament's Resolution of 2 July 2013 on the EU's External Aviation Policy – Addressing Future Challenges. The ASEAN side welcomed Vice-President Kallas' statement that he would propose to the European Commission to seek authorisation from the Council of the European Union at the earliest possible to start negotiations on an EU-ASEAN comprehensive air transport agreement.
10. Reiterating their strong wish to strengthen their aviation cooperation, the two sides intend to set up an ASEAN-EU Aviation Working Group to discuss and monitor progress in the entire range of areas of co-operation and regularly report progress.

Adopted in Singapore on 12 February 2014.

\*\*\*\*\*