

Joint Press Release

17th ASEAN-EC Joint Co-operation Committee (JCC) Meeting

6 February 2009, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

1. The 17th ASEAN-EC Joint Co-operation Committee (JCC) Meeting was held in Phnom Penh on 6 February 2009 and attended by representatives of ASEAN Member States, the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. CHETH Naren, Acting Director-General of ASEAN-Cambodia and Mr. Seamus GILLESPIE, Head of Unit, External Relations, Directorate-General of the European Commission.
2. The Meeting discussed and reviewed ASEAN-EC co-operation since the last ASEAN-EC JCC Meeting held on 4 May 2007 in Brussels. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the overall progress of co-operation and relations between ASEAN and the EU, especially the successful conclusion of the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit held in Singapore in November 2007 and the adoption of the Plan of Action to Implement the Nuremberg Declaration on an EU-ASEAN Enhanced Partnership which set out direction for future ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations. In this regard, the Meeting commended the progress of the implementation of the Indicative List of Activities (2007-2008) to implement the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action.
3. The Meeting also exchanged views on ASEAN-EC future areas of co-operation with a view to further deepening and strengthening the ASEAN-EU partnership. To this end, the Meeting took note of the outcome of the ASEAN-EU SOM held on 3 February 2009 in Prague, Czech Republic, especially the preparations for the 17th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM) to be held on 27-28 May 2009 in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the proposed Progress Report on the Implementation of the Indicative List of Activities for 2007-2008 and the Phnom Penh Agenda for 2009-2010 to Implement the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action to be adopted by the 17th AEMM. Both sides looked forward to working closely to ensure the success of the AEMM and the implementation of the Phnom Penh Agenda for 2009-2010 to promote closer ties between ASEAN and the EU.
4. The Meeting further took note with satisfaction of ongoing implementation of the ASEAN-EC co-operation programmes for 2006-2010, which include ASEAN-EC Programme for Regional Integration Support (APRIS II), main instrument for EC support to ASEAN regional integration, and ASEAN-EC Programme on Biodiversity to support the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity. The Meeting welcomed the launch of the two new programmes, namely the ASEAN-EU Migration and Border Management Programme and the ASEAN-EC Statistical Capacity Building Programme.
5. The Meeting noted that ASEAN and the EC were currently working on the ASEAN-EC Programme on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (ECAP III), ASEAN-EC Programme on Air Transport Integration (AATIP) and ASEAN-EC Programme on Enhancing ASEANFTA Negotiating Capacity. The Meeting also exchanged views on a number of areas to be included in the new ASEAN-EC

Co-operation Programme for 2011-2013. The Programme, with regional integration as central theme, will address issues included in the three ASEAN Community Blueprints.

6. The Meeting expressed satisfaction with the positive developments on the implementation of the Trans-Regional EC-ASEAN Trade Initiative (TREATI) and the Regional EC-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (READI) which provide a flexible mechanism for both sides to enhance dialogue and collaboration in trade and non-trade areas of co-operation. In this regard, the Meeting looked forward to the implementation of the ASEAN-EC Programme on READI, and would exert all efforts to implement and expand areas of co-operation under READI and TREATI.

7. The Meeting also exchanged views on latest developments in both ASEAN and the EU. The Meeting noted that the ASEAN Charter had been fully ratified by all ASEAN Member States and came into force on 15 December 2008. ASEAN institutional mechanisms including the restructuring of the ASEAN Secretariat and the establishment of an ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to be based in Jakarta were being undertaken to ensure the success of the implementation of the ASEAN Charter. The Meeting noted that Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, ROK, the US, the UK and France had appointed their Ambassadors to ASEAN and looked forward to the imminent appointment of the European Commission Ambassador to ASEAN and the appointment of other EU Member States Ambassadors to signal the importance that the EU attaches to ASEAN.

8. The Meeting further noted efforts which were being made on integration and community building efforts in ASEAN, especially the adoption of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint, the finalisation of the Blueprints of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), as well as the 2nd Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan and other sub-regional endeavours to narrow the development gaps between and among ASEAN Member States. To this end, ASEAN appreciated EC for its continued support and assistance and looked forward to working closely with the EU for greater integration, and deepening the ASEAN-EU partnership through dialogue and co-operation in various sectors.

9. The Meeting also noted the latest developments in the EU, in particular the successful integration process, and the successful outcome of the EU Summit in December 2008 including the plans for ratification of the Lisbon Treaty. The Meeting stressed the need to further strengthen ASEAN-EU dialogue and co-operation, especially sharing best practices and experience in regional integration and narrowing development gaps between and among member states.

10. The Meeting agreed to convene the 18th ASEAN-EC JCC Meeting at the latest in the first half of 2011 in Brussels.

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