

16th EC-ASEAN Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC)
Joint Press Release
Brussels, 4 May 2007

The Joint Co-operation Committee boosts the EC-ASEAN partnership

The 16th EC-ASEAN Joint Co-operation Committee (JCC) was held in Brussels on 4 May 2007 and attended by representatives of ASEAN Member Countries, the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. James Moran, Director for Asia (except Japan and Korea), External Relations Directorate-General of the European Commission and Mr Kan Pharidh, Director-General of ASEAN-Cambodia. The meeting was held in the traditional spirit of friendliness, openness and mutual understanding that is the fruit of more than 30 years of dialogue and co-operation between the EC and ASEAN.

The Meeting reviewed the EC-ASEAN co-operation programmes of the last five years and discussed the priorities for the immediate future. The Meeting noted the successful conclusion of the 16th EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held in Nuremberg, in March 2007, in particular the adoption of the Nuremberg Declaration on an EU-ASEAN Enhanced Partnership which sets the direction and the agenda for EU-ASEAN relations in the years to come. In this regard, an exchange of views on the steps to take in finalising the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action to Implement the Nuremberg Declaration took place in the margins of the JCC.

The Meeting also discussed and identified a number of commemorative activities to be implemented in 2007 to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the EU-ASEAN Dialogue Relations.

The Meeting further took note with satisfaction of the progress of the implementation of the cooperative activities initiated under the framework of the Trans-Regional EU-ASEAN Trade Initiative (TREATI) and the Regional EC-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (READI). The Meeting noted that TREATI-related activities in 2005-2006 included: investment, trade facilitation and standards for fishery products, electronic equipment and wood products, and that TREATI would also provide a forum to develop working-level partnerships and common lines of understanding on key issues that will form part of the negotiations and implementation of future FTA.

The Meeting recalled that the 5th ICM, which was held in extended format in 2005 endorsed the implementation modality of the READI dialogue and initiated a number of areas of cooperation such as information society, animal health and climate change. The Meeting exchanged views on new areas of cooperation and agreed to expand READI to include other sectors such as energy, civil aviation, human trafficking, employment and other mutually agreed areas.

The Meeting took note of the EU's recent policy initiative on the environment, energy and climate change and, in this regard, discussed priorities for cooperation in these areas so that ASEAN could benefit from the EU's expertise and experiences.

The JCC took note of the progress of implementation of the second phase of the ASEAN Programme for Regional Integration Support (APRIS II), the main instrument for EC support to ASEAN regional integration, and welcomed its successful launch in November 2006. The meeting was informed by the EC about the advanced stage of the design of the ASEAN-EC Cooperation Programme on Statistics and the ASEAN-EC Cooperation Programme on Border Management and Document Security and called for their launch as early as possible.

ASEAN briefed the EC on the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and the accelerated timetable for building an ASEAN Community. The EC briefed ASEAN on the new instruments for development assistance to ASEAN, and especially the new Multi-annual Indicative Programme for Asia 2007-2010. The Meeting had a good and thorough discussion on the priorities for EC-ASEAN co-operation with a view to assisting ASEAN in its efforts for greater integration (especially in the economic field), deepening the EU-ASEAN partnership through dialogue and co-operation in various sectors, and continuing the highly successful regional programmes between EC and ASEAN Member Countries.

Next Meeting

The 17th ASEAN-EC JCC Meeting will be held in early 2009 in Cambodia.