Press Release
17th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting
Phnom Penh, 27-28 May 2009

The accession of the European Union (EU) and the European Community (EC) to the 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) took a step closer with the signing of several enabling instruments at the recent ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting which took place in Phnom Penh on 27-28 May 2009.

Marking the enhancement of ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations, the Ministerial Meeting witnessed the signing of the Declaration on Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia by the European Union and European Community and the ASEAN Declaration of Consent to the Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia by the European Union and European Community. Through the declarations, both sides now commit to complete accession of the EU/EC to the TAC as soon as possible.

As of now, 15 non-regional states have acceded to the Treaty, which is currently being amended to open it to accession by regional organisations whose members are only sovereign states.

With the theme, “ASEAN-EU Partnership for Peace, Economic Growth and Development”, the Meeting reaffirmed the strategic importance of the ASEAN-EU cooperation and relations, and recognised that ASEAN and the EU have strong complementarities in economic and social development. It also discussed, among others, current global challenges, such as the global financial crisis, the emergence of the latest AH1N1 virus and recent developments in the region.
Plenary session 17th AEMM, from left to right Head of Delegation of Romania, Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia and the UK.

H.E. Mr. Jan KOHOUT, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic delivered his remarks at the Opening Ceremony of the 17th AEMM.

Opening ceremony of the 17th AEMM