AGENDA of the ASEM 8 Summit

4 October 2010

17:00 Session I: MORE EFFECTIVE GLOBAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

Moving towards more effective global financial and economic governance is identified as priority number one. Both the first session and the working dinner will be devoted to this topic. At the previous ASEM Summit in Beijing in October 2008, ASEM partners faced a crisis unfolding before their eyes. Today, the challenge is to address the prolonged uncertainties of an unstable recovery and to define the structural responses likely to prevent a repetition of the financial upheaval of the last two years. ASEM 8 should display the resolve and unity of Asia and Europe in pursuing the reform of financial regulation and of supervision aimed at strengthening our financial institutions. It should also lay the basis for strong, sustainable and balanced growth to benefit all and thus improve the inclusiveness of our economies, and further allow a progressive exit from the unprecedented stimulus measures, fostering fiscal sustainability. In addition, signals should be sent on the modernization of the international financial institutions, taking account of the needs of today’s world economy and of the shifts that have taken place as a result of the strong growth in dynamic emerging markets and in developing economies. There is agreement that the subject requires the adoption of a separate declaration entitled “Towards more effective global economic governance”.

19:45 Working Dinner (continuation of topic of session 1)

5 October 2010

08:30 Breakfast Meeting with AEBF Delegation

The Breakfast Meeting brings together the ASEM Heads of State and Government/Heads of Delegation and high-level business executives for a breakfast meeting in different breakfast lounges. The composition of each meeting is organized in such a way as to include a balanced composition of Asian, European and new partners political and business leadership. The purpose is to bring about interaction between ASEM Heads of State/Government and business leaders. It is conceived as an encouragement for closer interaction between the business worlds of Asia and Europe, supporting business friendly policies and generating positive spin-offs on trade and investment flows between the two regions. This is particularly relevant for the respective financial sectors which are relatively little integrated with each other.
09:30 Session II : ADVANCE ON THE PATH OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Following up on the Beijing Declaration on Sustainable Development, ASEM partners are expected to agree concrete actions that clearly express their resolve. A first area of work is to tackle trade and investment barriers that hamper the dissemination of innovative technologies. More generally, promotion of non-distorting market policies and of incentives leading to the adoption of more sustainable forms of goods and services production is needed. A second area of work is achieving greater social cohesion through the promotion of ILO agreed documents and the development of social security systems that operate not only as welfare or redistribution mechanisms but also as economic stabilizers. A third area of work is environmental protection with the aim of developing a message of political will on the important issue of climate change in Cancun and on the international negotiations on Biodiversity in Nagoya. ASEM partners might also endorse creative forms of development cooperation that go beyond aid, involve more diversified strands of human resources and take recourse to financing modalities with greater multiplier effect, blending aid and loans.

11:30 Session III : GLOBAL ISSUES

It is proposed to develop strong messages reflecting determination on a number of global issues of great concern to ASEM populations. These include the fight against terrorism and organized crime, the elimination of acts of piracy at sea and the reversal of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and of their delivery systems. ASEM partners should be clear on their support for democracy and the respect for human rights. Also, in light of a succession of natural disasters over the last number of months, ASEM partners must demonstrate progress on the reduction of risks and on the efficacy of international assistance. There is a feeling that this is an area where ASEM, considering its geographical scope and the flexibility of its mechanisms, could be instrumental in achieving more and better cooperation and coordination.

12:30 Reception hosted by His Majesty King Albert II of Belgium

13:30 Working Lunch : REGIONAL ISSUES

During the luncheon, regional cooperation mechanisms and integration efforts will be discussed. This discussion will serve to reaffirm each others’ objectives of fostering stability and raising prosperity through regional cooperation. ASEM partners should also identify ways in which mutual support can be given, which is the background for the EU’s desire to become a member of the Treaty on Amity and Cooperation. On political and security issues of concern to ASEM partners such as in Iran, Afghanistan, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and Myanmar, including the peace process in the Middle East, there should be a frank and direct dialogue founded on mutual respect and designed to improve the
understanding of the different positions held by partners. On that basis, ASEM partners should adopt constructive conclusions, opening the way to new developments on the ground and meeting the wider objectives of ensuring lasting peace and stability.

**15:15 Session IV : PEOPLE TO PEOPLE, VISIBILITY & FUTURE OF ASEM**

ASEM 8 will present an opportunity, during the fourth session, to further boost exchanges among European and Asian civil society representatives and leaders. On the margins of the summit, a parliamentary partnership meeting, a business forum, a people’s forum and a civil society event put together by ASEF will take place. Those, as well as cultural cooperation, of which the exhibition “A Passage to Asia” running in Brussels is an outstanding example, deserve encouragement, also for the visibility they provide to ASEM. ASEM partners propose to focus on youth and also on educational exchanges, for those are investments that will ensure lasting friendship among the peoples of ASEM. In the same vein, ASEM partners will reiterate the importance attached to the continuation of interreligious and interfaith dialogue.

**16:45 Closing Ceremony**

ASEM 8 Chair Herman Van Rompuy will present the Chair’s Statement and the Declaration. He will then offer the floor to the ASEM 9 Summit Host, Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

**17:30 Coordinators’ Press Conference**

Participants are:

- ASEM 8 Host Prime Minister Yves Leterme of the Kingdom of Belgium
- ASEM 8 Chair and President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy
- Asian ASEM Coordinator President Lee Myung-Bak of the Republic of Korea
- European ASEM Coordinator and President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso
- Asian ASEM Coordinator Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- ASEM 9 Host Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic

**18:00 Visit to the exhibition “A Passage to Asia”**

His Royal Highness Prince Philippe and Her Royal Highness Princess Mathilde together with ASEM 8 Chair Herman Van Rompuy and a number of Heads of State and Government/Heads of Delegation visit the exhibition “A Passage to Asia”.