The EU - ASEAN relationship in twenty facts and figures

EU and ASEAN trade, trade

1. The EU is ASEAN's third largest trading partner. We are crucial partners commercially with $265 billion in goods and services traded between our two regions in 2011. ASEAN has a surplus of $25 billion in its trade with the EU.

2. The EU is the biggest provider of Foreign Direct Investment into ASEAN, 24% of the total.

3. The first ASEAN-EU Business Summit was organised in Jakarta in May 2011, followed by a second Business Summit in April 2012 in Phnom Penh and third one in Hanoi in March 2013. These meetings of business leaders, including small and medium sized enterprises, with ASEAN Trade Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner led to a host of recommendations for further improving trade between the two regions and how to speed up ASEAN's economic integration.

4. The EU has concluded a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Singapore and is negotiating FTAs with several other ASEAN countries (Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia). These agreements are stepping stones to a full agreement between the EU and ASEAN as a whole.

EU and ASEAN citizens exchange, travel, learn

5. 10 million people travel between our two regions each year. Seven million are EU citizens who travel to ASEAN for tourism, business, study, family visits and otherwise, more than from any other partner of ASEAN. These numbers are growing year by year.

6. There is a growing exchange of students and scholars between the two regions. Each year around 250 ASEAN students receive scholarships under the EU Erasmus Mundus programme and around 25 ASEAN scholars a year benefit from Marie Curie Fellowships. Adding to this the many scholarships provided by EU Member States it is safe to say that more than 4,000 ASEAN students per year travel to Europe on EU scholarships.

7. The EU promotes exchange of knowledge between research institutions. More than 212 ASEAN research organisations link up with EU organisations under Research Framework Programme 7 (2007-2013). They receive a total of 27.4 million € from the EU and contribute themselves €12.2 million.

EU-ASEAN step up political ties

8. Positive momentum has been building up over the last years in the EU-ASEAN relationship. Both 2012 and 2013 have seen an unprecedented number of visits by top-level EU visits to ASEAN and its Member States: by Presidents Van Rompuy and Barroso, HR/VP Ashton and several Commissioners as well as a marked rise in the visits by EU Member States.


10. The EU is an active member of the ASEAN Regional Forum. The EU and Myanmar will co-chair the ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and the related Defence Officials Dialogue for the year 2013-2014. In 2012 and 2013, HR/VP Ashton attended the ASEAN Regional Forum Meeting at Ministerial level.

11. The EU and ASEAN have an intensifying dialogue on human rights. Recently, EU Special Representative for Human Rights Stavros Lambrinidis met the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, while the same Commission is expected to visit the EU institutions soon on their second visit.
12. Dialogue and cooperation is also starting in several security-related fields. The EU and ASEAN work together to enhance crisis response and disaster management; the EU supports for example the ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Assistance. The EU and ASEAN will also organise a conference on maritime cooperation in Jakarta in November this year, with the aim of exchanging lessons learned on integrated and cooperative approaches to maritime issues and the joint development of resources.

13. As two leading regional integration initiatives, the EU and ASEAN regularly share their experiences - both successes and challenges – of how to make integration work. The Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Initiative supports dialogue between experts in a variety of areas. For example, in the beginning of 2014, the ASEAN Connectivity Coordination Committee will visit Europe to discuss the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity.

**EU-ASEAN cooperation is vast and growing**

14. The EU is a major development partner of ASEAN and the biggest donor to the ASEAN Secretariat. The **EU supports ASEAN’s integration effort directly** with an amount of around € 65.9 million for the period 2007-2013, i.e. close to €10 million per year. This amount is likely to increase in the coming period (2014-2020).

15. In November 2012 the EU launched its third programme supporting the creation of the ASEAN Economic Community set to be achieved by 2015. A new EU programme will support the building of the ASEAN “single market and production base” through the implementation of measures that will facilitate the free movement of goods across the ASEAN region and, ultimately, enhance ASEAN connectivity (EU ARISE programme, 15 million €, 2012 - 2015).

16. A Single Market requires good border management. Successive EU border management programme support, including with the support of INTERPOL, the exchange of information between immigration officials in ASEAN capitals and support the easing of visa requirements for ASEAN and non-ASEAN nationals within the region (EU-ASEAN Migration and Border Management Programme, 4.7 million €, 2012-2015).

17. Another area where EU experience is proving useful is the integration of higher education. The EU supported the creation of an ASEAN Inter-University Network. A new programme will improve the comparability of university qualifications and make it easier to transfer credits obtained at one ASEAN university to another one, promoting people-to-people connectivity (EU SHARE programme, 10 million €, 2013 - 2017).

18. For a region that integrates, it is important to have a good system of harmonised statistics as a basis for smart decision-making. The EU supports the harmonisation and integration of statistical data among ASEAN Member States (EU-ASEAN COMPASS, € 7.5 million, 2010-2014).

19. The EU shares its experience in the creation of a single aviation market and contributes 5 million € to promote an ASEAN aviation market which is safe, secure and sustainable. In February 2014, the EU and ASEAN will organise a Civil Aviation Summit. ASEAN has set a 2015 at 2015 deadline to establish a Single Aviation Market for the region. Also through this programme, the EU contributes to ASEAN's connectivity is served (ASEAN Air Transport Integration Project, 5 million €, 2012-2016).

20. **And more.** Through a number of world-wide EU programmes, ASEAN and the EU cooperate in the areas of energy and climate change, the protection of biodiversity and the promotion of good governance.

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