

Facts and figures

EU and ASEAN trade ,trade, trade

1. **The EU is ASEAN's second largest trading partner.** Based on EU statistics, in 2015, ASEAN-EU two-way trade in goods stood at €201 billion, an 11% increase year-on-year. In 2015, ASEAN exported almost 118 billion euro to the EU and the EU 83 billion to ASEAN.
2. **The EU is the biggest provider of Foreign Direct Investment in ASEAN,** accounting for almost a quarter of total Foreign Direct Investment in the region. (In 2014 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows from the EU increased by 31.5 per cent to USD 29.3 billion, accounting for 21.5 per cent of the total FDI inflows into ASEAN).
3. **Freeing up trade.** The EU has concluded negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Singapore and with Vietnam and is negotiating FTAs with several other ASEAN countries (Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines). Additionally, the EU negotiates an investment protection agreement with Myanmar/ Burma. These agreements are stepping stones towards a fully-fledged EU-ASEAN region-to-region FTA.

EU and ASEAN citizens exchange, travel, learn

4. **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.
5. **A growing exchange of students and scholars.** Each year over 1300 ASEAN students and staff from universities receive scholarships and almost 600 European students and staff will travel to ASEAN countries under the EU Erasmus+ programme. Over 25 ASEAN scholars a year benefit from Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowships. In addition, many scholarships are provided directly by EU Member States.
6. **The EU SHARE (EU Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region) 2015-2019 (EUR 10 million) is supporting the creation of an ASEAN Inter-University Network.** This programme, which began in January 2015, is improving 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. SHARE is an initiative of EU and ASEAN aimed at sharing Europe's experience from the "Bologna Process" with ASEAN.
7. **Exchanging knowledge.** More than 212 ASEAN research organisations link up with EU organisations under the EU's 7th Research Framework Programme (2007-2013). They received ca. EUR 20 million from the EU, which led to 103 projects being devised. Cooperation will continue under the EU's new Horizon 2020 programme.

EU-ASEAN step up political ties

8. **Unprecedented number of top-level EU visits to ASEAN.** In recent years there have been several high level visits to South East Asia, including by then Presidents Van Rompuy and Barroso, High Representative F. Mogherini and several Commissioners as well as a marked rise in the visits by EU Member States. In October 2014, the EU and ASEAN met for an informal Leaders' Meeting for the first time since 2007.
9. **Accession to ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation.** In July 2012, the EU acceded to ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation. Two months earlier, EU and ASEAN Foreign Ministers adopted a Plan of Action for the period 2013 to 2017 in Brunei.
10. Intensifying dialogue on human rights. In 2013 EU Special Representative for Human Rights Stavros Lambrinidis met the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and travelled to Jakarta twice in 2014. In October 2015 the AICHR visited the EU institutions for the second time on a full-week visit during which the first EU-ASEAN Policy Dialogue on Human Rights took place.
11. Stepping up engagement on non-traditional security. The EU and ASEAN work together to enhance crisis response and disaster management; the EU supports the ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Assistance.

EU cooperation with ASEAN on security and defence related issues

12. The EU has a clear interest in stability in Asia and thus promoting a security architecture that is better able to manage the region's political tensions and in which it plays a relevant role. In recent years, the EU has stepped up its involvement in security and defence related matters commensurate with its global role and responsibilities. Cooperation on broad security issues is growing element in the EU's relationship with ASEAN.
13. The HR/VP has attended every ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial since 2012, plus the Shangri La Dialogue in 2014 and 2015.
14. The Chairman of the EUMC has paid several visits to the respective ASEAN chair plus attended the Shangri La Dialogue and the Asia Pacific Roundtable.
15. The EU has organised two Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) orientation courses for ASEAN countries (and will continue to do so) in which it informs ASEAN representatives on the EU's civilian and military missions and operations.
16. In 2013 and 2015 the EU, together with Indonesia and Malaysia, organised High Level Dialogues on Maritime Security (and is planning further editions in 2016 and 2017 with Thailand and the Philippines respectively). The HLD brings together senior officials and experts to discuss how to forge effective answers to maritime security related challenges.
17. The EU has also co-chaired a number of initiatives in the ARF framework (for instance two trainings on Preventive Diplomacy as well as a workshop on CBRN Risk Mitigation and another one on Confidence Building Measures during Cyber-incidents).

18. The EU co-chaired the ARF ISG and the related Defence Officials Dialogue with Myanmar in 2013-2014.
19. The EU currently co-chairs the ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime.
20. Together with the Philippines, the EU will co-chair an ARF workshop on the prevention of violent extremism in 2016/17.
21. The EU has participated actively in ARF initiatives such as Disaster Relief Exercises in 2013 and 2015

EU-ASEAN partnering in integration and connectivity

22. **Natural connectivity partners.** As two leading regional integration initiatives, the EU and ASEAN regularly share their experiences - both successes and challenges – of how to make integration work. Exchanges have been taken to a higher level since the first session of the dialogue on connectivity in Myanmar in September 2014.
23. **Towards an air transport agreement.** Air traffic between the EU and ASEAN nearly doubled over the last 15 years to reach more than 10 million passengers and is expected to grow by 65% in the next 20 years. The EU supports ASEAN's endeavour to establish a single aviation market; ASEAN was identified in the recent EU Aviation Strategy (December 2015) as one of the priorities for negotiating a region-to-region Air Transport Agreement. Negotiations on a Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (CATA) between the EU and ASEAN will start at the end of October.

EU-ASEAN cooperation is vast and growing

24. **The EU is a major development partner of ASEAN and the biggest donor to the ASEAN Secretariat.** In the current budget cycle (2014-2020), the EU will support the ASEAN integration and the Secretariat with EUR 170 million regional funding, more than double the amount under the previous cycle (close to EUR 70 million, 2007-2013). This comes in addition to EUR 26 million thematic programmes intended for ASEAN, as well as our bilateral cooperation with individual countries of ASEAN, which will amount to over EUR 2 billion in the period 2014-2020.
25. **Supporting the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).** The EU will support the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 with a new EU-ASEAN flagship programme ARISE+ (EUR 85 million), expected to start in 2017. The programme will build on the successful work of the ongoing programmes in the areas of trade facilitation, standards conformance notably in food safety and pharmaceuticals, customs and transport, civil aviation, intellectual property rights, statistics and integration monitoring. Next to regional it will also include tailor-made country level support.
26. **Promoting policy dialogues and experience sharing.** Building on the successful previous EU-ASEAN Dialogue Initiative facility (READI), the new and substantially increased E-READI programme (EUR 20 million), expected to start during 2016, will be able to support policy dialogues and experience

sharing between the EU and ASEAN and among ASEAN Member Countries across all areas of ASEAN Community pillars.

- 27. Supporting border management. Continuing past EU support in this area, the new EUR 3.4 million EU-ASEAN Migration and Border Management Programme II** started in 2015, in cooperation with INTERPOL. Aligned with the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, in particular people to people connectivity, the border management programme supports the exchange of information between immigration officials in ASEAN capitals and the easing of visa requirements for ASEAN and non-ASEAN nationals within the region.
- 28. Supporting Climate Change, Environment and Disaster Management.** The EU will be supporting the work in this area with altogether EUR 60 million in the period 2014-2020. In 2015, two new programmes were adopted – Sustainable Peat Land Management and combating trans-boundary haze pollution (EUR 20 million), and the support to ASEAN Biodiversity Agenda and ASEAN Heritage Parks (EUR 10 million), both expected to start during 2016.
- 29. ASEAN Farmers Organisations Support Programme (EUR 15 million).** The objective of this programme, which started in 2015, is to implement a common approach in strengthening of producers' organisations in ASEAN Member Countries.

