

PROFILE

H.E. Mr Francisco FONTAN PARDO *EU Ambassador to ASEAN*



H.E. Mr Francisco FONTAN PARDO is the Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to ASEAN. He presented his letter of credence to H.E. Mr Le Luong Minh, the Secretary General of ASEAN, in Jakarta on 17 September 2015.

Mr Fontan is the first dedicated EU Ambassador to ASEAN, appointed in July 2015 by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. As the EU Ambassador to ASEAN, Mr Fontan is mandated to coordinate the EU's expanding cooperation activities with ASEAN. He represents the EU in all relevant negotiations, coordinates with EU Member States and enhances public diplomacy efforts in relation to EU support for ASEAN integration.

After a year of experience as a humanitarian worker in the Balkans and Burundi, working with NGOs and as an expert for the EU Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), Mr Fontan became an EU official in 1996. For the last 20 years, Mr Fontan has served at the European Commission – the executive arm of the EU – and the European External Action Service (EEAS) – the EU's diplomatic service – covering political and cooperation activities of the EU's external relations in Africa, Asia and America.

Mr Fontan assignments at EU diplomatic representations abroad include the EU Delegation to Guinea-Bissau, staff member of the EU High Representative to Afghanistan, as well as in two ASEAN countries: in Vietnam as the EU Delegation's Deputy Head of Cooperation, and in Indonesia as the Head of Europe House in Banda Aceh, responsible for the coordination of EU's support for the reconstruction following the 2004 tsunami and EU's support to the peace process following the 2005 Helsinki peace agreement. Prior to his current assignment, Mr Fontan was the Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to the Federative Republic of Brazil since 2011.

Mr Fontan has a degree in Law from the *Universidad Complutense*, Spain. While pursuing his studies, he was also awarded a two-year Erasmus scholarship in France and Austria. He completed his studies with preparations for the Spanish Diplomatic Academy in 1994.

Mr Fontan is a Spanish national. He was born on 17 May 1969 in Madrid. He also speaks English, French, German, Portuguese and is working hard on his *Bahasa Indonesia!*

Mr Fontan is married to Mrs Megan Ireland and they have three children.