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# DRAFT REPORT

on the future of EU-ASEAN relations  
(2013/2148(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION .....	3
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT .....	9

## MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

### on the future of EU-ASEAN relations

(2013/2148(INI))

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the main legal framework for relations with ASEAN, namely the ASEAN-EEC Cooperation Agreement, signed in March 1980<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to the ongoing negotiations and/or the conclusion of seven Partnership and Cooperation Agreements between the European Union and the ASEAN Member States, namely Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam,
- having regard to the negotiations on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam and the conclusion of the EU-Singapore FTA,
- having regard to the EU strategy ‘New Partnership with Southeast Asia’ of July 2003, (COM(2003)0399), which identifies enhancing regional trade and investment relations with ASEAN as well as dialogue in specific policy areas as key priorities,
- having regard to the 7th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP) and the 22nd ASEAN Summit,
- having regard to the Nuremberg Declaration on an EU-ASEAN Enhanced Partnership of March 2007 and its Plan of Action of November 2007,
- having regard to the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to Strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership (2013-2017) adopted in Brunei Darussalam in April 2012,
- having regard to the accession of the European Union to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) in Phnom Penh on 12 July 2012<sup>2</sup>,
- having regard to the 9th Summit of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) held in Vientiane, Laos in November 2012,
- having regard to the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), established in February 1997 to provide a forum for non-governmental dialogue,
- having regard to the EU-ASEAN Plan for Action 2013-2017, endorsed at the EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Brussels on 25 April 2012,
- having regard to the ASEAN-EU Programme of Regional Integration Support programme (APRIS), the ASEAN Regional Integration Support programme (ARISE), and the Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (READI) in support of the harmonisation of policies and regulations in non-trade related sectors,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 85, 8.4.1980, p. 83.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 154, 15.6.2012, p. 1–10.

- having regard to the Joint EU-US statement on the Asia-Pacific Region of 12 July 2012,
- having regard to the founding of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on 8 August 1967,
- having regard to the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint agreed in 2007 and the ASEAN Charter adopted in 2008,
- having regard to the first ASEAN Human Rights Declaration of 18 November 2012, the establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the first dialogue between the AICHR and the newly established European Union (EU) Special Representative for Human Rights, Stavros Lambrinidis, on 8 May 2013,
- having regard to the 14th ASEAN summit held in 2009 and the establishment of a road map for a single market ASEAN (Economic) Community, ASEAN Political-Security Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community,
- having regard to the 22nd ASEAN summit held in Brunei on 24-25 April 2013,
- having regard to the 7th East Asia summit (EAS) held in Phnom Penh on 20 November 2012 by the leaders of 17 countries in ASEAN, China, Japan and South Korea (ASEAN+3), India, Australia and New Zealand (ASEAN+6) and President of the United States, Barack Obama,
- having regard to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER),
- having regard to its recent resolutions on ASEAN, in particular its resolution of 18 April 2012 on the ‘accession of the European Union to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia’, its resolution of 2 February 2012 on ‘EU foreign policy towards the BRICS and other emerging powers: objectives and strategies’<sup>1</sup>, and its resolution of 4 May 1999 on the ‘ASEM process (Asia-Europe Meeting): perspectives and priorities into the new decade’<sup>2</sup>,
- having regard to its recent resolutions on ASEAN member states, in particular its resolution of 17 February 2011 on the ‘border clashes between Thailand and Cambodia’<sup>3</sup>, its resolution of 7 July 2011 on ‘Indonesia, including attacks on minorities’<sup>4</sup>, its resolution of 25 November 2010 on ‘Burma: conduct of elections and the release of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi’<sup>5</sup>, its resolution of 20 May 2010 on the ‘situation in Burma/Myanmar’<sup>6</sup>, its resolution of 20 May 2010 on the ‘situation in Thailand’<sup>7</sup>, its resolution of 26 November 2009 on the ‘situation in Laos and Vietnam’<sup>8</sup>, and its

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<sup>1</sup> Texts Adopted, P7\_TA(2012)0017.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 279, 1.10.1999, p. 69.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 188E, 28.6.2012, p. 57–59.

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 33E, 5.2.2013, p. 201–204.

<sup>5</sup> OJ C 99E, 3.4.2012, p. 120–123.

<sup>6</sup> OJ C 161E, 31.5.2011, p. 154–157.

<sup>7</sup> OJ C 161E, 31.5.2011, p. 152–153.

<sup>8</sup> OJ C 285E, 21.10.2010, p. 76–80.

resolution of 5 February 2009 on the ‘Situation of Burmese refugees in Thailand’<sup>1</sup>,

- having regard to Rule 48 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the opinions of the Committee on Development and the Committee on International Trade (A7-0000/2013),
- A. whereas the ASEAN Charter signed in November 2007 establishes legal personality and a legal and institutional framework for ASEAN including the creation of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to support and coordinate the work of ASEAN;
- B. whereas the ASEAN Economic Community aims to create an internal market for 600 million people by 2015, which will make ASEAN with its competitive economic operators and fast growing internal demand comparable to other large markets in the world, such as the EU, the United States, China, Japan, and India;
- C. whereas in 1993 the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was established to foster dialogue and consultation on political and security issues and to contribute to confidence-building and preventive diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region;
- D. whereas the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action of 2012 between the EU and ASEAN aims to give more strategic focus to cooperation on the three pillars of ASEAN, as well as to cultural and development cooperation, and it has regular meetings at ministerial and senior official levels;
- E. whereas the latest ASEAN summit called for the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula and encouraged ASEAN external partners to accede to the protocol on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone treaty; whereas the summit also agreed that East Timor could attend the next summit as an observer;
- F. whereas while China has been increasing its economic ties with Southeast Asian countries, the unresolved territorial disputes in south China have been drawing some ASEAN member states closer to the United States for cooperation on maritime security; whereas Russia also sees Asia as an invaluable and increasingly important part of its global strategy;
- G. whereas ASEAN member states’ economic restructuring efforts after the 1997 Asian financial crisis have helped them to show in general good resistance against the present global economic crisis;
1. Takes the view that ASEAN, as a major regional and global economic actor, notwithstanding its internal differences, can play an important role to promote a peaceful, multilateral world order; wishes to see ASEAN’s institutional and political capacities further develop;
  2. Strongly encourages ASEAN to continue its integration path, notably the ambitious ASEAN plan for an Economic Community by 2015, including the liberalisation of its internal labour market;

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 67E , 18.3.2010, p. 144–145.

3. Emphasises that the EU and ASEAN have common political and economic interests, which should continue to be developed with high priority; Suggests in recognition of the importance of this relationship to appoint an EU Head of Delegation to ASEAN; equally requests that the presence of the EU and its Member States be increased in the region and its fora;
4. Believes that the EU and its Member States should work on a common and coherent approach for the ASEAN region, supporting and complementing each other;
5. Warmly welcomes the negotiations of seven Partnership and Cooperation Agreements between the EU and individual ASEAN member states, which will be the cornerstones for deepening mutual relations;
6. Considers that establishing a formal Euro-ASEAN parliamentary assembly would further enhance exchanges between parliamentarians; also suggests the creation of links between the Parliament Sub-Committee on Human Rights and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Human Rights Commission (AIHRC); Believes that the Office for the Promotion of Parliamentary Democracy could provide capacity-building assistance to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA); Stresses that the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP) and the Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF) in connection with the ASEM summits, should be further enhanced;
7. Considers that the EU should support ASEAN in developing its own space within the conflicting economic and security interests of China, Japan and the United States; believes that the EU could be an active partner for ASEAN in its pursuit of solutions to important security and geostrategic challenges, in order to enhance peace and regional stability;
8. Stresses that the EU should intensify policy dialogues and cooperate closely with ASEAN on the fight against transnational crime, such as money laundering and trafficking in people and drugs, counter-terrorism, non-proliferation, disarmament, anti-piracy and cyber security, while protecting freedom of expression and the free flow of information;
9. Calls for the Commission and the EEAS to continue providing assistance to the capacity-building of the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN institutions, drawing from the experiences in the EU; suggests that the ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU programme ARISE should continue providing such assistance;
10. Highlights the benefits of increasing joint high-level meetings and mutual collaboration and understanding in multilateral fora, such as the United Nations and its agencies, the IMF and the WTO;
11. Encourages supporting cross-regional visits of cultural performers and urges the Member States to encourage broader coverage of the ASEAN region in state-run media and education;
12. Believes that it is worth considering organising a 'cultural' year with a changing topic every year, whereby an EU country could be featured in ASEAN member states, and likewise, an ASEAN country could be featured in Europe;
13. Welcomes the fact that the EU is now the biggest partner in scientific cooperation with

most ASEAN member states, suggests that the Commission's research and innovation programme Horizon 2020 should be promoted more actively with science institutions in the region;

14. Suggests establishing ASEAN study centres in European and EU study centres in ASEAN universities; believes that the EU needs to expand university programmes in English to better facilitate access for Asian students to European universities, while EU researchers should be helped to join research programmes in Asia including in cooperation with the ASEAN University Network (AUN);
15. Suggests the use of the new Partnership Instrument in order to intensify regular exchanges and mutual learning processes, for example on multicultural societies, democratic state structures for the 21st century, state welfare systems, legal and security systems and more;
16. Calls for the EU to take on a more prominent institutional role than that of a simple member in the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), whose core function is to develop links between civil societies in both regions;
17. Calls for the launching of an EU-Asia school and city-twinning initiative in order to link up regions in Europe, such as Eastern and Southern Europe, and Asia which have had few exchanges up to now;
18. Expresses concern over the rate of illegal logging, burning and resulting smog that has a significant negative impact across ASEAN borders; encourages stronger efforts for the protection of the environment, commends the work of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and is looking forward to tighter cooperation between the EU and ASEAN on climate change mitigation and adaptation;
19. Urges the Commission to come up with a strategy vis-à-vis European companies and banks, which cooperate with ASEAN partners involved in the expropriation of land in favour of rubber and palm oil production and to help develop measures to increase international and local law enforcement capacities;
20. Suggests that the EU focus its inter-regional cooperation with ASEAN particularly on disaster and crisis management, energy sufficiency and security, resource management, sustainable development, tourism, urbanisation, agricultural investment, research and innovation, food security, use of marine resources, the fight against poverty and migration issues;
21. Recalls that it is also important to support the booming private sector with dialogue and cooperation on financial, investment, economic and trade issues and the ongoing global financial crisis;
22. Notes that for several ASEAN members textile exports to the EU represent an important sector and recalls that the granting of GSP and GSP+ is linked to the fulfilment of certain basic labour standards;
23. Highlights that the EU should provide assistance to the capacity building of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, as well as technical assistance to the ASEAN Committee on Women and Children;

24. Expects that the review of the ASEAN Charter will provide an opportunity to strengthen the role of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights;
25. Welcomes the peace process and the democratic reforms in Burma/Myanmar; expresses, however, its grave concern over crimes against humanity committed against the Rohingyas; equally expresses concern over land grabbing, impunity and corruption, and appeals to all ASEAN member states to ratify the statutes of the International Criminal Court (ICC);
26. Is looking forward to enhanced cooperation on mutual human rights concerns such as the treatment of migrants;
27. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the EEAS, the Council and the Commission.



## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The report aims to raise appropriate attention to the EU-ASEAN relations, which undeservingly have often been moved to the backstage over EU relations with China, Japan and India. This situation prevails despite the fact that ASEAN purchasing power and size of economy is already comparable to China's and ASEAN's political cloud is on the rise.

Similarities between the EU and ASEAN carry considerable potential for synergies and mutual learning processes. The report tries to explore how the enhanced economic ties can be matched with a more adequate socio-political and institutional framework and relations. The report also presents ideas on how bilateral region-to-region relations could be lifted to a new level. The assessment and recommendations are presented in the context of the ongoing ambitious internal integration process within ASEAN, the emerging political powers and the democratic challenges such as those confronted by the next ASEAN Chair Burma/Myanmar with its rapid transformation and evolution towards democracy.

The recommendations of the report will be framed by the ASEM process, the Nuremberg Declaration, the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, as well as on the future Partnership and Cooperation Agreements.

The report includes an analysis of and suggestions for future EU-ASEAN relations in a global context, most notably with China, Japan and the United States and looks at possibilities to enhance EU contributions to ASEAN's integration process.

The report explicitly does not cover EU relations with individual ASEAN Member States. Those will be treated in the series of specific resolutions expected to be adopted as regards recommendations of the Parliament to the PCA negotiations or the consent procedures and accompanying reports regarding the implementation of new PCA agreements. For the same reason the report does not touch bilateral relations between ASEAN Member States.