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*Delegation for relations with the countries of Southeast Asia and the Association of  
Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)*

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**DASE\_PV(2018)0110**

## **MINUTES**

of the meeting of 10 January 2018, 16.00-18.00  
Brussels

The meeting opened at 16.00 on Wednesday, 10 January 2018, with Werner Langen, (Chair) presiding.

### **1. Adoption of draft agenda**

The draft agenda was adopted without modifications.

### **2. Chairman's announcements**

The Chair welcomed the ASEAN Ambassadors to the bi-annual exchange of views and thanked His Excellence Yuri O. Thamrin, Ambassador of Indonesia, for the coordination among the ASEAN Embassies. He welcomed also Ms. Paola Pampaloni, Deputy Director Asia Pacific with the EEAS, and Peter Berz, Head of Unit Southeast Asia, DG Trade with the European Commission.

The Chair mentioned the three resolutions adopted in December: the resolution on Vietnam concerning the freedom of expression, on Cambodia concerning the ban of the opposition, and on Myanmar regarding the Rohingya issue. Regarding Cambodia, the Chair noted that while the ban on the opposition might be considered democratic under the Cambodian law, it was by no means democratic. He mentioned that the situation of the Rohingya minority would remain on the agenda. A sustainable solution of this conflict required the engagement of the international community. He also brought up the issue of the disappearance of a prominent Lao civil society activist, Sombath Somphone. Against the background of last year's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EU-ASEAN relations, it was necessary to strengthen economic ties despite existing differences regarding democracy, human rights and rule of law. He acknowledged that the Ambassadors were not responsible for domestic policies, but they were to explain these policies to the EU.

### **3. Presentation by the EEAS on state of play of EU-ASEAN relations**

Ms Pampaloni, Deputy Managing Director Asia Pacific with the EEAS, gave an overview of

last year's developments in the context of the 40th anniversary of EU-ASEAN relations. She mentioned the invitation of European Council's President Donald Tusk to attend the East Asia Summit lunch in November, for the first time as a guest of the chair. This was an important step in the EU-ASEAN relationship; the EU and ASEAN discussed means of cooperation on issues of common concern relating to security such as terrorism, extremism, human trafficking, as well as on trade issues, investment, connectivity and people-to-people-cooperation. The cooperation between the two regions is wide ranging and covers many different sectors. The Action Plan for the period 2018-2022 was adopted by the Vice-President and High Representative Mogherini and the ASEAN foreign ministers at the ASEAN-EU Ministerial Conference on 6 August 2017 in Manila. Political and security-related priorities feature more prominently in the plan, thus conforming that the partnership is becoming more mature and comprehensive. The EEAS representative recognized that ASEAN and EU are both important economic powers that support free and fair trade. She also hoped that the bilateral trade agreements will be stepping stones towards a future region to region trade agreement that can set new standards for global trade and be a landmark for openness, exchange and shared prosperity in times of protectionist tendencies. She recognized that EU investors are leading drivers of foreign direct investment in ASEAN countries; the EU investment in ASEAN increased by 46% in the last year. This development also transfers know-how, technology and management systems that boost productivity in ASEAN. Ms Pampaloni also noted that the EU and the ASEAN are negotiating a comprehensive air transport agreement, which when finalized, will allow people to travel between the two regions more conveniently, cheaply and safely.

Members raised the idea of collaborating more with parliamentarians from the region in the context of AIPA (ASEAN Interparliamentary Assembly). An invitation should be extended to the Secretary General of AIPA to come and meet with the Delegation and the Ambassadors.

#### **4. Exchange of views with the Ambassadors of the Member States of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on current political and economic developments in the region**

The Ambassador of Indonesia, Chair of the ASEAN Brussels Committee, pointed that ASEAN and EU were sister organisations and partners in integration which realise that pursuing regional integration is a means of ensuring regional peace, stability and progress. However, there were also differences in the integration processes, as the two regions have distinct visions, missions and trajectories. He noted that ASEAN-EU accounts for 18% of the world population and 26% of the global GDP, further adding that both organisations had made important contributions to global peace, stability and prosperity, thus reinforcing multilateralism and addressing global issues. ASEAN and EU now live and operate in a very challenging geopolitical context. This required the need to increase cooperation. In this context, the statement of President Donald Tusk on 28 November 2017 for a stronger EU security engagement in Asia was much welcomed. The Ambassador recognized the important role played by Parliaments in promoting strong relations and cooperation between the EU and ASEAN. He mentioned that ASEAN welcomed the visits already carried out by the ASEAN Delegation in 2017 or to be planned for 2018, and assured full support of the ASEAN Ambassadors in Brussels in order to ensure the success of those visits. The Ambassador also appreciated European Parliament's resolution of 3 October 2017 on EU's political relations with ASEAN. He identified that the resolution contained many good ideas and initiatives to promote cooperation between the two regions, such as the EU's initiative for an EU-ASEAN Young Leaders' Exchange Program to be realised in 2018, as well as the need to establish a

region-to-region EU-ASEAN Parliamentary Assembly. Finally, by welcoming some key findings of the EU-ASEAN Business Survey 2017 he mentioned that ASEAN remains ready to foster strengthened economic ties between the EU and ASEAN, particularly to intensify works towards the resumption of ASEAN-EU free trade negotiations.

In the following debate, Members and Ambassadors discussed the following issues: security problems in the South China Sea, foreign direct investment, biodiversity and international illegal trade on wild animals, Council conclusions of 11 December on Thailand, the palm oil issue (Malaysia and Indonesia) and the state of play of negotiations on Free Trade Agreements. Complaints by the Ambassador of Cambodia on the recent urgency resolution provoked reactions by the Chair regarding the deterioration of democratic standards. The Ambassador of Myanmar was asked by the Chair to respond in writing to the Delegation regarding the latest developments on the Rohingya issue.

In view of his upcoming retirement, the Ambassador of Vietnam expressed his distress over urgency resolutions affecting the ASEAN countries adopted by the EP. MEP Butikofer requested to not consider the expression of opinion as polarising, as friendship in the European understanding included addressing also controversial issues. He also declared that a Vietnamese national being abducted from German territory to be tried in his country of origin was more than a crime; it was a political mistake. He finally stressed that the EU will not refrain from raising such issues, noting that the people's representatives are not being paid for happiness, but for raising their concerns, including standing up for principals.

#### **5. Any other business**

There was no other business.

#### **5. Date and place of next meeting**

The Secretariat will communicate date and place of the next meeting electronically.

The meeting closed at 18.00.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/  
JELENĹTI ÍV/REGĪSTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/  
LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/PREZENČNĂ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LĂSNĂOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

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Werner Langen
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/ Kérviselek/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Richard Ashworth, Stefan Eck, Barbara Kappel, Barbara Lochbihler
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Reinhard Bütikofer, Herbert Dorfmann, Neena Gill, Peter Kouroumbashev, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Nosheena Mobarik

200 (2)
206 (3)
53 (8) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/ Päevakorra punkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Point OJ/Točka dnevnog reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Εσιμεhe kutsel/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair(wo)man/Sur l'invitation du président/Na poziv predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina tač-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/Na pozwanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (\*)

Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Komisija/Commissione/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (\*)

Peter Berz, Filip Deraedt, Efstratios Pegidis, Thierry Soyez

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Giuseppe Busini, Paola Pampaloni, Heino Marius

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Abu Sufian Haji Ali, Thireak Chea, Yuri O. Thamrin, Khamkheuang Bounteum, Dato' Hasnudin Bin Hamzah, Paw Lwin Sein, Alan L. Deniega, Jaya Ratnam, Manasvi Srisodapol, Vuong Thua Phong

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Andreas Striegnitz	
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Kathleen Huygen	

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