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DRAFT REPORT

containing a motion for a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion on behalf of the Union of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Singapore, of the other part (07322/2018 – C8-0000/2018 – 2018/0000M(NLE))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Antonio López-Istúriz White

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MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT NON-LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

containing a motion for a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion on behalf of the Union of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Singapore, of the other part

(07322/2018 – C8-0000/2018 – 2018/0000M(NLE))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (07322/2018),
- having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Articles 37, 212(1), 218(6) and the second subparagraph of Article 218(8) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C8-0000/2018),
- having regard to the EU-Singapore Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), signed in Brussels on 19 October 2018,
- having regard to the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Investment Protection Agreement (IPA), signed in Brussels on 19 October 2018,
- having regard to the ASEAN-EEC Cooperation Agreement signed in March 1980, which constitutes the legal framework for EU-ASEAN relations¹,
- having regard to the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit, held in Brussels on 18 and 19 October 2018,
- having regard to the 10th EU-Singapore inter-parliamentary meeting, held in Singapore on 23 May 2017,
- having regard to the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy, published by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) in June 2016,
- having regard to the Guidelines on the EU's Foreign and Security Policy in East Asia, approved by the Council on 15 June 2012,
- having regard to its recent resolutions on ASEAN, in particular those of 3 October 2017 on EU political relations with ASEAN² and of 15 January 2014 on the future of EU-ASEAN relations³,
- having regard to its legislative resolution of ... on the draft decision,
- having regard to Rule 99(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

¹ OJ L 144, 10.6.1980, p. 2.

² OJ C 346, 27.09.2018, p. 44.

³ OJ C 482, 23.12.2016, p. 75.

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A8-0000/2018),
- A. whereas EU-Singapore relations go back several decades, and are built on a long history of friendship and close historical, political and economic ties; whereas the bilateral partnership is founded on shared values and a commitment to a peaceful and prosperous world;
- B. whereas both parties to the EU-Singapore Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) reaffirm their respect for democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms, as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other applicable international human rights instruments;
- C. whereas Singapore is a founding member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2017;
- D. whereas during its 2018 Chairmanship of ASEAN, which bears the tagline ‘Resilient and Innovative’, Singapore has hosted two ASEAN Summits and promoted ASEAN unity, security and economic cooperation;
- E. whereas Singapore is a close ally of the United States, with which it concluded an FTA in 2003, and considers it indispensable for regional security, stability and balance in the Asia-Pacific region;
- F. whereas Singapore ranked 9th on the UN Development Programme’s Human Development Index in 2017;
- G. whereas Singapore ranked 6th on Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index 2017 making it one of the least corrupt countries in the world;
- H. whereas Singapore’s Constitution enshrines the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, while allowing for restrictions to these rights in order to guarantee security, protection of public order, morality, parliamentary privilege, and racial and religious harmony;

EU-Singapore Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

1. Welcomes the conclusion of the PCA, which is of strategic importance and will provide a legal framework for the long-standing bilateral relations and commitment to strengthening and widening cooperation in regional and international forums, and in areas such as international stability, justice, security and development;
2. Highlights the opportunities provided by the PCA for new areas of cooperation, such as justice, freedom and security and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and for scientific and technological cooperation in fields such as energy, the environment, natural resources and transport, in particular maritime and air transport;
3. Welcomes cooperation on people-to-people links, the information society, the audio-visual and media fields, education and cultural exchanges, employment and social affairs, health and statistics that will help to evaluate the progress of the agreement;
4. Considers that the PCA, the framework agreement, is politically closely associated with

and complements the FTA and the IPA;

Human rights and fundamental freedoms

5. Reaffirms the shared commitment and engagement with regard to respect for human rights, democracy, fundamental freedoms, good governance and the rule of law, and to working together in this regard;

EU-Singapore relations

6. Stresses that the conclusion of the PCA provides a strong impetus for greater engagement between the EU, Singapore and the Southeast Asia region in general;
7. Welcomes the fact that the PCA supports people-to-people exchanges, such as academic mobility under the Erasmus Mundus Programme, and facilitates the further development of cultural exchanges in order to increase mutual understanding and knowledge of respective cultures;
8. Underlines the role of the Singapore-based Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) as the main instrument for cultural exchanges between Asia and Europe;
9. Highlights that the European Union Centre in Singapore, which was established in 2009 in partnership with the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University, promotes knowledge and understanding of the EU and its policies and is part of the global network of EU Centres of Excellence;
10. Encourages Singaporean researchers to carry out joint research and innovation projects with EU entities under EU research initiatives such as the Horizon 2020 programme, and to address common global challenges relating to climate change, the environment, biotechnology, health, aging populations, energy, natural resources and food security;

Regional and international cooperation

11. Considers that Singapore is a key partner in responding to humanitarian disasters in Southeast Asia;
12. Stresses that Singapore has advocated regional multilateralism in Southeast Asia; takes note of Singapore's role in the EU-ASEAN inter-regional diplomatic, economic and institutional dialogues and underlines Singapore's support for regional integration in Southeast Asia;
13. Takes note of Singapore's contribution to regional and global security; welcomes the annual Asia Security Summit, otherwise known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, which has been held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore since 2002;
14. Calls for the EU to contribute to the resolution through diplomatic means of the territorial disputes in the South China Sea, and is pleased that Singapore, a non-claimant country, has urged the parties to manage differences peacefully and in accordance with international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);
15. Calls, alongside Singapore, for freedom of navigation and overflight in the area and

stresses that the EU has a strong interest in promoting stability in Southeast Asia; highlights the key role of the ASEAN Regional Forum and the East Asia Summit in promoting security dialogues between the region and the extra-regional powers of China and the United States;

16. Welcomes the ASEAN Cyber Capacity Programme launched on the initiative of Singapore, which aims to assist ASEAN nations in identifying and responding to cyber threats; understands that ASEAN has no mutual norms for cyber protection, which could impede cyber security cooperation in the region; calls for the EU to share its experiences of dealing with cyber and hybrid threats and to support ASEAN capacity building in this area;
17. Commends Singapore on its deployment of troops and materiel to support the multinational coalition in Iraq from 2003 to 2008 and its subsequent contribution to the anti-ISIS operations in Iraq and Syria;
18. Recognises Singapore's readiness to host and role in hosting summit meetings to promote peace and confidence building in Asia and beyond;

Institutional framework under the PCA

19. Welcomes the establishment under the PCA of a Joint Committee composed of representatives of both sides at an appropriately high level, to ensure the proper functioning and implementation of the agreement, set priorities and make recommendations to promote the agreement's objectives;
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20. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the European External Action Service, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, and the Government and Parliament of Singapore.