



**FOURTEENTH AEM-EU TRADE COMMISSIONER CONSULTATIONS**  
**3 March 2016, Chiang Mai, Thailand**

**JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT**

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the EU Trade Commissioner held their Fourteenth Consultations on 3 March 2016 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR and H.E Cecilia Malmström, the EU Trade Commissioner.
2. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner noted the strong trade and investment relations between the two regions, with the EU being ASEAN's second largest trading partner and largest source of FDI inflows. In 2015, ASEAN-EU two-way trade stood at €201 billion, a 11% increase year-on-year, based on EU statistics. 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. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen economic cooperation in order to deepening economic relations between the two regions.
4. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner noted with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN-EU Trade and Investment Work Programme for 2015-2016, which include the holding of the 13<sup>th</sup> AEM-EU Trade Commissioner Consultations, the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> SEOM-EU Consultations, the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Business Summit, and various cooperation activities in the areas of finance, science and technology as well as standard and conformance.
5. The Ministers appreciated the tangible outcomes of the on-going activities under ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (ARISE), the EU-ASEAN Project on Intellectual Property Rights (ECAP III) and the EU-ASEAN Capacity Building Programme for Monitoring Integration Progress and Statistics (EU-COMPASS). These activities have been supporting various ASEAN integration initiatives such as the ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR) and ASEAN Solutions for Investments, Services and Trade (ASSIST). The ASEAN Ministers expressed their wishes for EU's continued support for the implementation of AEC Blueprint 2025.
6. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner reaffirmed their commitment to working towards an ASEAN – EU Free Trade Agreement. In this regard, they noted the progress of the joint stock-taking exercise on the assessment of the progress of ASEAN integration, the status of bilateral FTAs between the EU and ASEAN Member States, and how to ensure added value by building on these bilateral FTAs. The Ministers and

the EU Trade Commissioner instructed Senior Economic Officials to intensify their work and to recommend by the next Consultations, the appropriate next steps towards the ASEAN – EU FTA.

7. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner reaffirmed their commitment to a strong multilateral trading system and to the World Trade Organization (WTO). To this end, the Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner welcomed the outcomes of the 10<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, held in December 2015, notably on agricultural export competition, and Least Developed Countries issues. They also looked forward to advancing negotiations on remaining issues of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and to discussing on how the WTO can best address other challenges facing the global trading system. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner concurred on the importance of swift ratification of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) agreed at the 9<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali in 2013, and encouraged all WTO members to complete their respective domestic procedures as quickly as possible.
8. The EU Trade Commissioner also welcomed the expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) agreed in Nairobi, with participation of the EU and several ASEAN Member States, and progress in the negotiations for an Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA), in which the EU and one ASEAN Member State participate. The EU Trade Commissioner encouraged more ASEAN Member States to join these initiatives.
9. The EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) reported its activities to the Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner noted the recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN – EU Business Summit in the areas of strategy, finance, automotive, agri-food, infrastructure, and competitiveness. They commended the Business Summit as a business-driven event having been organized under the framework of ASEAN – EU economic cooperation.

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**LIST OF MINISTERS AND THE EU TRADE COMMISSIONER**

1. **H.E. Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam (representing the Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam);
2. **H.E. Sun Chanthol**, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia;
3. **H.E. Cecilia Malmström**, European Commissioner for Trade;
4. **Iman Pambagyo**, Expert Assistant to the Minister of Trade, Indonesia (representing H.E. Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Minister of Trade, Indonesia);
5. **H.E. Khemmani Pholsena**, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR;
6. **H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed**, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia;
7. **H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw**, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar;
8. **H.E. Adrian S. Cristobal Jr.**, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines;
9. **H.E. Lim Hng Kiang**, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
10. **H.E. Apiradi Tantraporn**, Minister of Commerce, Thailand;
11. **H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu**, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam).