

PRESS RELEASE

Four more Ambassadors accredited to ASEAN - all 27 EU Member States and EC to accredit Ambassadors to ASEAN ASEAN Secretariat, 12 February 2009

The Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, has received the appointment letters of the Czech Ambassador to ASEAN, Pavel Řezáč; Finnish Ambassador to ASEAN, Antti Koistinen; German Ambassador to ASEAN, Baron Paul Von Maltzahn; and the Commission of the European Communities Representative to ASEAN, Julian Wilson. The Ambassadors called on Dr Surin at the ASEAN Secretariat today and presented their letters of appointment.

Dr Surin warmly welcomed them to ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretariat. He said, "We appreciate the European Union's move to further deepen relations with ASEAN following the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter on 15 December 2008. It reflects the EU's commitment to engage ASEAN on all levels. The accreditation of Ambassadors by all 27 EU Member States and the EC to ASEAN will serve to strengthen the links between the two regions politically, economically and culturally."

Besides the Czech Republic, which is the current EU Presidency, Finland, Germany, and the EC, the UK and France also have appointed Ambassadors to ASEAN. The Secretary-General looks forward to receiving the accreditation of the other EU Member States, including Sweden, the next EU Presidency. The EU representation to ASEAN will be conducted in a "Troika" format, comprising the current EU Presidency, incoming EU Presidency and the European Commission.

Dr Surin also welcomed Jan-Willem Blankert as the Special Adviser for ASEAN Affairs attached to the EC Delegation in Jakarta.

Dr Surin thanked the EC for its expanded assistance programme to ASEAN totalling Euro 50 million in the coming three years. He said, "The ongoing and future cooperation given by the EC to ASEAN will help further strengthen ASEAN's integration and, in so doing, contribute to the ASEAN community building efforts."



(L-R) H.E. Baron Paul Von Maltzahn German Ambassador to ASEAN, H.E. Julian Wilson the Commission of the European Communities Representative to ASEAN, H.E. Dr Surin Pitsuwan Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Pavel Řezáč Czech Ambassador to ASEAN.



H.E. Antti Koistinen Finnish Ambassador to ASEAN & H.E. Dr Surin Pitsuwan Secretary-General of ASEAN

Notes:

Pavel Řezáč is also the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Republic of Indonesia.

Baron Paul Von Maltzahn is also the German Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia.

Antti Koistinen is also Finland's Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia.

Julian Wilson is concurrently Head of Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Indonesia and to Brunei Darussalam.