

Press Release
The Secretary-General of ASEAN Welcomes the Ambassador of Portugal
ASEAN Secretariat, 21 April 2009



The Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, today received the letter of appointment from H.E. Carlos Manuel Leitão Frota, who has been named the Ambassador of Portugal to ASEAN.

Welcoming Ambassador Frota, Dr Surin said, "This is yet another demonstration of support for ASEAN from the EU, which we appreciate greatly. ASEAN is certainly ready to return the favour. We have many common objectives to pursue together in the international agenda. We are ready to advance the partnership between ASEAN and Portugal, as well as ASEAN and EU."

Following the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter, non-ASEAN countries have been accrediting Ambassadors to ASEAN, including the EU, as one of ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, which announced that each of its 27 Member States shall appoint an Ambassador to ASEAN, in addition to the European Commission.

Portugal is the 10th Member State of the European Union to have appointed its Ambassador to ASEAN, following Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Romania and the United Kingdom.