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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: Asia Oceania Working Party
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Commission Decision on the ASEAN-EU Plan for Action (2018-2022)
- Endorsement by the Council

1. On 14 July 2017, Commission adopted a decision¹ on the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action (2018-2022).
2. The envisaged date for adoption of the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action (2018-2022) on behalf of the European Union is 6 August 2017 on the occasion of the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) + 1 Session with the EU in Manila.
3. The Asia/Oceania Working Party agreed on the text on 14 July 2017.
4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to confirm the agreement on the text as set out in the Annex to this note and transmit it to the Council for endorsement.

¹ C(2017) 4978 final

**ASEAN-EU Plan of Action
(2018 - 2022)**

This ASEAN-EU Plan of Action replaces the Bandar-Seri-Begawan Plan of Action to strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership (2013-2017) and will be subject for endorsement at ASEAN-EU ministerial level.

1. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

1.1. Enhance strategic dialogue and deepen political and security cooperation

- a) Convene biennial ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meetings (AEMM); Annual ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with the EU (PMC)+1; supported by regular meetings of the ASEAN-EU Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and; ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Meeting;
- b) Strengthen cooperation in regional and multilateral fora, including the United Nations and other bodies within the UN system, as well as with the Asia - Europe Meeting (ASEM) and the G20, and to develop joint positions where appropriate;
- c) Enhance dialogue between the ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and the EU Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta to support efforts in elevating the partnership to a strategic level. Encourage the establishment of linkages between the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and Committee of Permanent Representatives in the European Union (COREPER).

1.2. Enhance the ASEAN- EU dialogue in the ASEAN-led security architecture of South East Asia

- a) Support the open, inclusive and multi-layered ASEAN-led regional architecture and welcome a gradual participation of the EU in all ASEAN- led processes, in particular the East Asia Summit;
- b) Enhance dialogue and promote cooperation with the EU on defence and security matters, through the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue and gradual participation in ADMM+ working groups and exercises;
- c) Enhance the role of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), with ASEAN as the primary driving force, and support the implementation of the ARF Work Plans; and
- d) Cooperate in mediation and dialogue, reconciliation, confidence-building, preventive diplomacy, conflict management, conflict prevention, arms control, disarmament, non-proliferation and peacebuilding initiatives in the region through workshops, seminars, exchange of best practices and other capacity building initiatives with relevant ASEAN platforms such as the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), in accordance with its TOR.

1.3. Combat terrorism, transnational crimes, address other non-traditional security issues

- a) Review and implementation of the ASEAN-EU Work Plan to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2014-2017) , and prepare for the next generation work plan that takes into account new mutually agreed priority areas;
- b) Convene the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) - EU Consultations in the margins of the annual ASEAN SOMTC on a regular basis, to promote dialogue and cooperation on ways to tackle transnational crime, environmental crime, drugs and cyber-crime. Special attention will be given to enhancing cooperation in the fight against terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalisation.

- c) Support the implementation of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children as well as on people smuggling in ASEAN and the EU;
- d) Promote cooperation on adherence to international standards enshrined in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.
- e) Promote interaction between ASEANAPOL and EUROPOL, in line with the Letter of Intent signed on 8th November 2016 by both organisations, aimed at strengthening the cooperation between the two organisations, by providing mutual support, as well as facilitating the exchange of best practices and expertise in their areas of interest..

1.4. Enhance maritime security cooperation and other exchanges in security and defence

- a) Exchange of experience in maritime-related issues including at the ASEAN-EU High Level Dialogue on Maritime Security Cooperation and via the co-chairmanship of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (2017-2020), - while "synchronising" as much as possible the agendas of both initiatives - as well as sharing knowledge and expertise in the sustainable joint management of marine resources;
- b) Promote the principles of, and compliance with, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS 1982) and strengthen cooperation on maritime security such as in combatting sea piracy, armed robbery against ships, hijacking and arms smuggling, in accordance with relevant universally agreed principles of international law and

- c) Enhance cooperation in maritime safety and search and rescue (SAR), including the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Cooperation in Search and Rescue of Persons and Vessels in Distress at Sea, through activities such as exchange of information, technological cooperation and exchange of visits of relevant ASEAN and EU officials;
- d) Continue to engage on security and defence with a focus to improve understanding of challenges and in view of enhanced cooperation.

1.5. Promote disarmament and non-proliferation

- a) Cooperate in combating illegal transfer of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in accordance with the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and in efforts to regulate or improve the regulation of international trade in conventional arms, by joining the Arms Trade Treaty or taking into account the provisions of it. Cooperate on implementing UNSC Res. 1540.
- b) Promote cooperation in mitigating risks associated with chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) materials building on the achievement of the EU Centre of Excellence Initiative and to establish an EU ASEAN framework of regional cooperation on Dual Use Export Control.

1.6. Promote peace-oriented values

- a) Intensify cooperation on interfaith and inter-civilisation dialogues; and
- b) Cooperate to promote moderation which calls for peace, mutual respect, and understanding, sustainable and inclusive development, and social harmony as well as support the implementation of the Langkawi Declaration of the Global Movement of Moderates, in efforts to counter extremism in all its aspects.

1.7. Stimulate EU-ASEAN Cooperation on human rights and good governance

- a) Enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the work of ASEAN human rights bodies in accordance with their respective mandates and work plans along with UN conventions and procedures; Hold ASEAN-EU Policy Dialogues on Human Rights on a regular basis.
- b) Strengthen the cooperation between the EU and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) through training, regional dialogues, awareness raising activities, exchange of best practices and other capacity building initiatives to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Bis. Promote cooperation between ASEAN and the EU to implement relevant UN conventions and instruments, including on women's rights, children, legally staying migrant workers, as well as ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Declaration on the Adoption of the AHRD;

- c) Promote capacity building for and support ASEAN's efforts in strengthening the democracy, good governance, rule of law, and judiciary systems, through sharing of experiences and best practices.

2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND CONNECTIVITY

2.1. Expand trade, business and investment

- a) Convene regular ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM)-EU Trade Commissioner Consultations, and regular meetings of the ASEAN-EU Senior Economic Officials (SEOM-EU);
- b) Promote common understanding in the areas identified by SEOMs.
- c) Strengthen dialogue and cooperation in the field of economic and social policy, with a view to contributing to sustainable and inclusive growth, social cohesion, and labour market stability with particular attention to decent work and core labour standards, including social dialogue, freedom of association and right to organise. Encourage and support partners in vitalising the UN guidelines on Business and Human Rights by implementing them through national Action Plans;
- d) EU and ASEAN to work jointly towards possibly resuming the negotiations on an ambitious ASEAN-EU Regional Free Trade Agreement building on bilateral FTAs between the EU and ASEAN Member States as stepping stones towards it.
- e) Strengthen the capacity of ASEAN Member States in areas which could lead to facilitate a region- to-region FTA, as well as the ASEAN Customs Transit System to improve customs clearance and transit in ASEAN;
- f) Support effective implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 at regional and national level, including in the areas of trade facilitation, customs and transit (in particular the ASEAN Customs and Transit System);
- g) Encourage public-private sector dialogue and business-to-business engagement, with the aim of effectively representing both ASEAN and EU business interests;
- h) Encourage the implementation of the ASEAN-EU Business Summit recommendations including supporting the ASEAN-EU Business Council.

- i) Share best practices and experience in financing and developing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and promote exchanges on policy and regulatory environments for digital economy.

2.2. Strengthen Strategic Connectivity between ASEAN-EU, including transport, energy and ICT

- a) Continue policy dialogue on how to enhance inter-regional connectivity between ASEAN and the EU, including through the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Connectivity (ACCC) and relevant EU counterparts in Jakarta and Brussels.
- b) Promote jointly the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, particularly in the areas of sustainable infrastructure, energy, digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence and people mobility.
- c) Promote collaboration to address societal challenges in the Asia-Pacific region from environmental protection and climate change to disaster support, peatland monitoring and urban development issues, and to facilitate business and innovation partnerships on Earth Observation in the framework of Copernicus.
- d) Address in a close dialogue the main common challenges in all modes of transport and promote jointly the development of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market including the enhancement of aviation safety, security, and air traffic management consistent with the ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices.
- e) Cooperate to conclude and implement the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement, including notably cooperation on aviation safety, aviation security and air traffic management.
- f) Strengthen ASEAN-EU cooperation on promoting energy access, energy security and multilateral measures to support competitive global energy markets.

- g) Cooperate to promote energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) measures and technologies, renewable energy and other clean energy programmes including research; promote the development of alternative energy and cooperate on civilian nuclear safety, as well as promote public awareness and capacity building in this area.

2.3. Narrow the Development Gap in ASEAN

- a) Exchange expertise and best practices with the EU on sustainable development in the Lower Mekong sub-region on the basis of strong commitment by ASEAN, local ownership of the riparian states and the data provided by the Mekong River Commission and its existing initiatives and programmes with EU donors especially.
- b) Continue to contribute towards narrowing the development gaps within and between ASEAN Member States through the implementation of Work Plan III of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), as well as taking into account existing sub-regional cooperation frameworks.

2.4. Enhance cooperation in food and food safety, sustainable agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry

- a) Promote cooperation in agriculture, food, and forestry products, including on the basis of the Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025;
- b) Enhance cooperation in sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) sector, including as regards inspections and the implementation of the precautionary principle;
- c) Strengthen fisheries cooperation, including among others, supporting efforts to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, and promote sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development;
- d) Explore cooperation for the possible establishment of an ASEAN Common Fisheries Policy, including through the support to ratify and implement the FAO Port State Measures Agreement;

- e) Promote cooperation on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG).
- f) Promote cooperation on combating wildlife and timber trafficking and implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

2.5. Enhance cooperation on research and innovation, Science and Technology

- a) Support the cooperation of S&T centres of excellence and other S&T stakeholders through the EU's Framework Programme as well as national programmes in the EU and ASEAN, in areas of mutual interest including sustainable development; promote access to and sharing of research facilities; and
- b) Promote the mobility of scientists and researchers between ASEAN and the EU in accordance to the respective laws, rules and national policies.

3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION

3.1 Enhance cooperation in education, academic and cultural exchanges

- a) Maximise cooperation on student exchanges in ASEAN and the EU through the EU's programme for education, training, youth and sport, as well as national programmes in EU Member States and ASEAN countries.
- b) Strengthen collaboration between international educational organisations in ASEAN Member States and the EU to enhance the quality of education in areas in line with the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2016-2020;
- c) Promote greater cultural understanding and awareness between ASEAN and the EU, as well as the exchange of experience and expertise on public policy in the field of culture.

3.2. Enhance cooperation to address the challenge of pandemics

- a) Develop a network of existing agencies to enhance the effectiveness of regional surveillance and response towards Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) for better preparedness against major disease outbreaks.

3.3 Promote gender equality, well-being, rights and welfare of women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and legally staying migrants;

- a) Support exchange of experience and best practices on policies and programmes on gender mainstreaming to promote gender analysis and women's perspectives in regional initiatives across sectors, including initiatives on decent work, social protection, and building resilience;
- b) Promote research and raising awareness in areas of safe migration, and labour gender, and criminal justice dimension of trafficking in persons towards the protection and promotion of the rights of legally staying migrants;
- c) Enhance dialogue and promote cooperation on preventing and controlling illegal immigration including on the return and readmission of illegally staying migrants.
- d) Work together on the Global Compact for Migration and for Refugees in a multilateral context, because joint approaches are needed. Our main challenge will be to ensure an effective and ambitious follow up to the New York Declaration as an excellent and balanced basis for collective and multi-lateral action. The EU is fully and actively engaged in the preparation of both compacts and is ready to work in close and constructive partnership with its partner countries.
- e) Promote cooperation in promoting the rights and welfare of children;
- f) Support cooperation to promote the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities, particularly targeting poor and vulnerable groups and those suffering from multiple disabilities.

3.4 Enhance cooperation on Crisis and Disaster Management

- g) Enhance dialogue and cooperation between EU and ASEAN to support the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme;
- h) Support the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) through technical assistance and capacity building activities organised with the support of the Integrated Programme in Enhancing the capacity of AHA Centre and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanism (EU SAHA project) and through the consolidation of increased operational links with the European Emergency Response Coordination Centre ERCC.

3.5 Promote sustainable development

- a) Conduct a regular ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development as a platform to discuss development issues and the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including climate change, oceans and environment;
- b) Support the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) through technical assistance and capacity building;
- c) Strengthen cooperation to address the challenges posed by climate change through support to the implementation of relevant strategic priorities of ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems (APSMPE), and Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, among others; Support ASEAN biodiversity conservation agenda through specific programmes such as Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP).

- d) Strengthen cooperation to address climate related issues such as water and air pollution, sea level rise, adaptation and mitigation of greenhouse gasses (GHG) emissions; enhance EU-ASEAN cooperation on global climate change mitigation initiatives such as the Blue Carbon one.
- e) Strengthen support for ASEAN's efforts in the full and effective implementation of ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution to effectively address land and forest fires in the region, such as through the ASEAN-EU Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN

(SUPA) which supports the ASEAN Programmes on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems (APSMPE);

- f) Strengthen cooperation to address inter alia issues such as marine litter, focusing efforts in particular on prevention, and "Smart Cities".
- g) Actively promote circular economic policy and encourage the transition to sustainable consumption model by exchanging experiences on measures covering the entire product life cycle: from production and consumption waste management and the market for secondary raw materials.

4. FOLLOW-UP of the Plan of Action

- a) ASEAN and the EU should regularly review this Plan of Action through the appropriate existing mechanisms comprising ASEAN and EU officials, including through the ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) and the ASEAN-EU Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), with the assistance of the ASEAN Secretariat;
- b) Progress report of the implementation of the Plan of Action could be submitted to the annual Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) +1 session with the EU, and the biennial ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting;

Alt. Progress reports on the implementation of the Plan of Action should be submitted to the biennial ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting.

- c) The implementation of the present Plan of Action is a shared responsibility of ASEAN and the EU. It will be jointly taken forward by ASEAN and the EU.
 - d) The ASEAN-EU Plan of Action (2018-2022) does not, nor is it intended to, create any legal obligations on either side under domestic or international law.
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