



PRESS RELEASE

EU-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL OFFICIALLY BECOMES AN ACCREDITED ASEAN ENTITY

EU-ABC ALSO LAUNCHES THE 2018 EU-ASEAN BUSINESS SENTIMENT SURVEY

- **ASEAN Secretary General, H.E. Dato' Lim Jock Hoi, confirms the EU-ASEAN Business Council as an accredited entity associated with ASEAN under the ASEAN Charter**
- **EU-ABC becomes only the second business organisation from an official ASEAN dialogue partner to receive such accreditation**
- **EU-ABC officially recognised as the voice for European business in ASEAN by both the European Commission and ASEAN**
- **4TH Edition of the EU-ABC's annual business sentiment survey launched. Previous editions have shown overwhelmingly positive outlook from European businesses for the ASEAN region.**

Singapore, 3rd April 2018 – The Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dato' Lim Jock Hoi, has officially notified the EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) of its accreditation as an entity associated with ASEAN. The EU-ABC is now listed as an accredited business organisation under Annex 2 of the ASEAN Charter.

The EU-ABC is the primary voice for European business within the ASEAN region. The Council works on a sectorial and cross-industry basis to help improve the investment and trading conditions for European Businesses in the ASEAN region through influencing policy and decision makers throughout the region and in the EU, as well as acting as a platform for the exchange of information and ideas amongst its members and regional players within the ASEAN region.

Speaking about the accreditation, EU-ABC Chairman Donald Kanak said, "The EU-ABC represents companies with long traditions, and immense passion for the ASEAN region and its people. We view ourselves as part of the ASEAN family. The region's success will be our success. This accreditation further cements the excellent working relationship that we have developed with the ASEAN Secretariat and a number of other bodies across the region, such as the ASEAN Business Advisory Council. I am confident that for European businesses operating in Southeast Asia, there is a bright future of more growth, more employment, and more investment, leading to more prosperity in the countries and communities in which we work."

He noted that European business remains committed to the ASEAN region, as shown by the 2017 ASEAN-EU Business Sentiment Survey where an overwhelming majority of European companies reported that they expected to increase trade and investment in the region. The EUABC plans to repeat the survey in 2018, with the survey process to be launched at the beginning of April 2018.

Mr Kanak continued: "The Business Sentiment Survey has become a key publication for the EU-ABC and an important source of information for us and for policy makers in both ASEAN and Europe to understand the views of European businesses on a number of key issues impacting on their trade and investment decisions. The 2017 Survey showed a continuation of the strong support of European Businesses to ASEAN, and we hope that the 2018 Survey will continue that trend."



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Notes to editors:

About the EU-ASEAN Business Council

The EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) is the primary voice for European business within the ASEAN region.

It is recognised by the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. Independent of both bodies, the Council has been established to help promote the interests of European businesses operating within ASEAN and to advocate for changes in policies and regulations which would help promote trade and investment between Europe and the ASEAN region. The Council works on a sectorial and cross-industry basis to help improve the investment and trading conditions for European Businesses in the ASEAN region through influencing policy and decision makers throughout the region and in the EU, as well as acting as a platform for the exchange of information and ideas amongst its members and regional players within the ASEAN region.

The EU-ABC's membership consists of large European Multi-National Corporations and the nine European Chambers of Commerce from around Southeast Asia. The EU-ABC represents a diverse range of European industries cutting across almost every commercial sphere from car manufacturing through to financial services and including Fast Moving Consumer Goods and high-end electronics and communications. Our members all have a vested interest in enhancing trade, commerce and investment between Europe and ASEAN.

The Executive Director of the EU-ASEAN Business Council is Mr Chris Humphrey, and its Chairman is Mr Donald Kanak. The Council is led by an elected Board consisting of corporate leaders representing a range of important industry sectors and representatives of the European Chambers of Commerce.

About the EU-ASEAN Business Sentiment Survey

The Business Sentiment Survey is an annual publication which seeks to measure the views of European businesses operating in ASEAN on a number of key issues such as: Economic outlook and investment priorities; progress on the ASEAN Economic Community; and Developments on FTAs between Europe and Southeast Asia. The 2018 Survey will run from April 2018 through June 2018 with the results to be published in September 2018.

Details of the 2017 Survey can be found at: <https://www.eu-asean.eu/single-post/2017/09/05/EU-ABC-Publishes-2017-EU-ASEAN-Business-Sentiment-Survey>

Media Contacts

Brenda Lee, External Communications & Events Manager, EU-ASEAN Business Council, E-Mail: brenda.lee@eu-asean.eu. Tel: +65 9880 2261