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**PRESS RELEASE**

**ENHANCING FURTHER EU-ASEAN TRADE & INVESTMENT RELATIONSHIP TO BE AT THE  
HEART OF 6<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN-EU BUSINESS SUMMIT**

**SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN SINGAPORE - NEXT IN LINE FOR ASEAN CHAIRMANSHIP -  
FOR THE FIRST TIME ON 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2018**

- The EU-ASEAN Business Council, the European Chamber of Commerce (Singapore) and the Singapore Business Federation announced today the timing of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Business Summit and their joint collaboration for organising this prestigious event.
- The Summit, which brings together leading business people from Europe and Southeast Asia with regulators, politicians and leading academics, will take place in Singapore on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.
- High level speakers and panellists are expected – including EU and ASEAN Trade Ministers, Senior Officials, European CEOs.
- Summit will coincide with the ASEAN Economic Ministers' meeting with the EU Trade Commissioner, and will come at a time when both ASEAN and the EU are looking to further strengthen trade and investment ties.
- ASEAN remains an important region for European businesses with Europe, still the lead source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to ASEAN and Europe remaining ASEAN's second largest trading partner.

The EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC), the European Chamber of Commerce in Singapore (EuroCham Singapore) and the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) have today announced that the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Business Summit will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 in Singapore.

The Summit is an annual event, which brings together leading CEOs from Europe and Southeast Asia with policy and decision makers from regional governments and the European Commission to debate and discuss improvements to the trade and investment relationship between the EU and ASEAN. This will be the first time that the Summit has been held in ASEAN's financial hub as the Lion City takes on the Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2018.

With discussions already begun on a framework agreement for a region-to-region Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Europe and ASEAN, and with ASEAN's own economic integration project developing further, the Summit will come at key time – allowing participants to hear the latest updates on how the trade and investment relationship is developing, as well as the views of key business leaders on their aspirations for the future

Announcing the Summit, **Donald Kanak**, Chairman of the EU-ABC said: "This Summit is the key flagship event of the year for the EU-ABC, and we are very pleased to be partnering with EuroCham Singapore and SBF for its production as equal joint-organisers. The Summit comes at a key time: as our recent 2017 Business Sentiment Survey showed, European business optimism for ASEAN is at an all-time high, with an overwhelmingly positive sentiment towards the growth prospects for the region, and a clear desire for the EU to move faster in striking trade deals with ASEAN and its Member States. With the prospect of a region-

to-region FTA, and more bilateral FTAs between the EU and ASEAN, we can only see an already very strong trade and investment relationship getting even stronger.”

Also commenting on the announcement of the Summit, **Stefano Poli**, President of EuroCham Singapore, added: “We are anticipating a very high level of participation at the Summit from Ministers from around the region and from European and ASEAN Businesses. With the EU the number one source of FDI to ASEAN, and ASEAN’s second largest trading partner, there is much to be proud of in the relationship between the two regions. The Summit will be both a celebration of that relationship, and an opportunity for Ministers and senior business people to look at ways of deepening that relationship further.”

**Dr Robert Yap**, Chairman of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, also added: “2018 marks a new phase of relationship between ASEAN and EU with the conclusion of ASEAN-EU Plan of Action (2018 – 2022) which paves the way ahead for ASEAN and EU. The ASEAN-EU Business Summit remains a key platform connecting businesses across the two regions, and at the same time, provide recommendations to enhance business environment in ASEAN.”

The Summit programme will include a number of key-note addresses from Ministers and leading business people as well as a series of panel discussions on subjects such as:

- Advancing the ASEAN Economic Community
- Driving more FDI from the EU to ASEAN
- Ensuring sustainable development across ASEAN with high rates of urbanisation
- Establishing a digital economy in ASEAN

This will be the sixth iteration of the ASEAN-EU Business Summit, following earlier Summits held in Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia and the Philippines. The last summit was on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in Manila. Further details about the Summit, including schedule, registrations and sponsorship opportunities, can be found at [www.asean-eu-summit.org](http://www.asean-eu-summit.org).

END



# ASEAN·EU BUSINESS SUMMIT

2 MARCH 2018 SINGAPORE

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY:



## Tentative Outline Programme

08:30	Registrations
10:00	Welcome Remarks - Donald Kanak, Chairman of EU-ASEAN Business Council
10:10	Opening Remarks - H.E. Francisco Fontan, EU Ambassador to ASEAN (to be invited)
10:20	Opening Address - Senior Singapore Government Minister
10:40	Key Note Address - Senior European Business Person
11:00	Plenary Session 1 - ASEAN Economic Integration: More action, less words? <i>Panel will look at progress to date, and compare political statements to action on the ground. How can the AEC be advanced quicker? How can the benefits be spread throughout ASEAN?</i>
12:00	Key Note Address - Senior Business Leader
12:15	Plenary Session 2 - Urbanisation & Infrastructure in ASEAN - How to achieve sustainable development? <i>Panel will look at sustainable development in ASEAN's cities - how to make them more liveable and interconnected; financing of development; access to infrastructure etc.</i>
13:15	Networking Lunch
14:15	Key Note Address - Commissioner Cecilia Malmström (to be invited)
14:30	Key Note Address - Lim Hng Kiang, Minister (Trade), Ministry of Trade & Industry (Singapore) (to be invited)
14:45	Ministerial Panel - 3 or 4 of the ASEAN Economic Ministers
15:30	Coffee Break
15:45	Plenary Session 3 - Advancing the Digital Economy in ASEAN <i>Panel to look at the ways and means to develop the digital economy in ASEAN including e-commerce, financial inclusion, and connecting businesses and institutions to aid trade and finance flows</i>
16:45	Plenary Session 4 - Driving more FDI to ASEAN <i>Panel to look at the FDI climate in Southeast Asia, and how to maintain Europe as the leading source of FDI to the region</i>
17:45	Closing Speech - H.E. Barbara Plinkert, EU Ambassador to Singapore (to be invited)
17:55	Closing Remarks - Stefano Poli, President, EuroCham Singapore
18:00	Post-event Cocktails & networking

Sponsorship opportunities and media partnership opportunities are available. Please contact the respective media contacts below for AEBS 2018 sponsorship packages and more information.



## Notes to editors:

### 1. EU ASEAN Trade and Investment Relationship

The commercial, trade and investment relationship between the European Union and ASEAN is strong and growing. The EU is the largest economy in the world, and is ASEAN's largest source of foreign direct investment. The EU is also ASEAN's second largest trading partner, after China. ASEAN is now the world's 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy and the EU's third largest trading partner outside of Europe.

### 2. 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 both the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. Independent of both bodies (and other organisations), 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. As such, 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. As such, 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.

### 3. About European Chamber of Commerce (Singapore)

The European Chamber of Commerce in Singapore, also known as EuroCham, represents the common interests of the European business community in promoting freer trade and investments between Europe and Singapore. EuroCham is a non-profit, fee-based membership association comprising corporate members and the various European National Business Groups in Singapore. EuroCham provides an excellent platform for advocacy and networking for all members, and as a communication channel among Singaporean and European political and economic circles.

### 4. About Singapore Business Federation

The Singapore Business Federation (SBF) is the apex business chamber championing the interests of the Singapore business community in the areas of trade, investment and industrial relations. It represents 24,200 companies, as well as key local and foreign business chambers.

In July 2001, the Minister for Trade and Industry introduced a Bill in Parliament to establish the SBF Act, which was passed by Parliament and became law on 5 Oct 2001. The Federation was then established on 1 April 2002, with the aim of representing the business community's interests both locally and overseas. Under the SBF Act, all Singapore-registered companies with share capital of S\$0.5 million and above are members of SBF.

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