



ASEM

**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**  
**Of the Fifth Asia-Europe Meeting**  
***Hanoi, 8-9 October 2004***

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The fifth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 5) was held in Hanoi on 8-9 October 2004. The Summit was attended by the Heads of State and Government of thirteen Asian and twenty-five European nations, with the Prime Minister of Luxembourg acting also as the President of the European Council, and the President of the European Commission. The Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, H.E. Phan Van Khai chaired this momentous Meeting.

The Leaders, recalling the previous Summits in Bangkok (1996), London (1998), Seoul (2000) and Copenhagen (2002), held comprehensive, in-depth and fruitful discussions on a variety of issues of common interest and concern, under the overarching theme: ***"Further Revitalising and Substantiating the Asia-Europe Partnership"***.

The Leaders noted with satisfaction the progress made in the ASEM process on the basis of the principles agreed upon at previous Summits and set out in the Asia-Europe Cooperation Framework (AECF 2000). They noted with appreciation the positive outcomes of Foreign, Economic and Financial Ministers' Meetings, as well as the Meetings of Environment Ministers, Culture Ministers and ASEM High-Level Conference on Agricultural Cooperation since ASEM 4, and endorsed their recommendations.

## **1. Deepening Political Dialogue**

**1.1.** The Leaders, reviewing the complex and profound changes in the current international situation since ASEM 4, underlined that these changes are of global and multi-dimensional nature, which present both opportunities and challenges for global peace and security, and for sustainable economic development. They agreed, however, that the prevailing trend continues to be of peace, cooperation and development.

**1.2.** The Leaders reaffirmed their determination to address new global challenges and threats such as instability, terrorism, separatism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, trans-national crimes, negative aspects of globalization, the widening gap between the rich and the poor, infectious diseases, environmental degradation and climate change. To this end, they agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation in the context of ASEM dialogue and cooperation and the Asia-Europe partnership.



**1.3.** The Leaders, acknowledging that these serious challenges of global and multi-faceted nature should be addressed through a multilateral approach and collective actions through intensive dialogue and close cooperation on the basis of mutual understanding, equality and mutual benefit, reaffirmed their strong commitment to multilateralism and to a fair, just and rule-based international order, with the United Nations playing the central role.

**1.4.** The Leaders reiterated their support to the ongoing process of the reform of the United Nations and its principal organs, including the General Assembly and the Security Council, with a view to strengthening and enhancing the representativeness, transparency and effectiveness of the UN system. They underlined that ASEM countries are committed to making utmost efforts to ensure the success of the UNGA High-Level Plenary Meeting in 2005, addressing the implementation of all the commitments of the Millennium Declaration, including the Millennium Development Goals and the follow-up to the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. They also touched upon the International Criminal Court and agreed to continue dialogue on this issue.

**1.5.** The Leaders agreed on the need to reinforce multilateral dialogue and cooperation in ASEM as well as within regional and inter-regional frameworks, to help strengthen the global multilateral system. They underlined the need to ensure enhanced coordination on multilateral issues among ASEM partners, and endorsed recommendations by the Foreign Ministers to review existing ASEM procedure with a view to making proposals to strengthen ASEM coordination where appropriate in the multilateral framework, especially at the United Nations. They also welcomed the "ASEM Declaration on Multilateralism" by the ASEM Foreign Ministers in Kildare, Ireland in April 2004.

**1.6.** The Leaders condemned the series of terrorist attacks and expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of those killed in the terrorist attacks, particularly in Indonesia, Russia and Spain. They reaffirmed their strong commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which remains a serious threat to international peace and security, sustainable development and political stability. They stressed that the fight against terrorism requires a comprehensive approach, collective efforts, and international cooperation where the United Nations plays the leading role, duly taking into account the root causes of terrorism. They also underlined that the fight against terrorism must be conducted in accordance with the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and basic norms of international law, including those of non-interference, respect for territorial integrity and national sovereignty, respect for human rights and the rule of law. They stressed the importance for the international community to ensure



conclusion and implementation of all relevant counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, and the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on counter-terrorism including Resolution 1373.

**1.7.** The Leaders, recalling their determination as expressed at ASEM 4, agreed on the need to further strengthen ASEM consultation, cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism through specific initiatives and practical measures and extension of capacity building assistance where needed. They noted with appreciation the results of the ASEM Seminar on anti-terrorism held in Beijing in September 2003, and looked forward to the next seminar to be held in Germany in October 2004. They also welcomed other initiatives on counter-terrorism undertaken recently by ASEM and among ASEM partners, as well as in the regional frameworks of the European Union, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the ASEAN Plus 3 and APEC.

**1.8.** The Leaders, noting the scourge of transnational crimes and their possible linkage with terrorism, agreed to work closely together and in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter and international law to effectively combat trans-national crimes and other non-traditional threats to international peace and security, such as money laundering, arms trafficking, trafficking in human beings, the production of and trafficking in illicit drugs, and computer crimes.

**1.9.** The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and their determination to deepen ASEM cooperation in this field. They underlined the need to strengthen multilateral approach and cooperation as well as respective multilateral instruments on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, other WMD and their means of delivery, especially an enhanced role of the United Nations. They agreed that efforts aimed at non-proliferation should be in parallel with efforts towards disarmament, and the enhancement of international cooperation in research and use of technologies for peaceful purposes. They also expressed concern over the illicit trade related to WMD and their means of delivery, and demonstrated their strong resolve not to allow WMD and their means of delivery to fall into terrorist hands.

**1.10.** The Leaders took note of the results of the UN Bangkok Conference on AIDS and expressed their concern that the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, through its scale and impact, constitutes a global emergency. It provides a formidable challenge to human life and dignity, undermining social and economic development throughout the world and affecting all levels of society. They reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment issued at the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS and agreed that the



fight against HIV/AIDS should feature in the framework of ASEM cooperation.

**1.11.** The Leaders praised the role of the ASEM Environment Ministers in coordinating positions on global environment issues, particularly climate change. They underlined the need to pursue and intensify the coordination on environment issues and look forward to the next Environment Ministerial Meeting. They confirmed their belief that climate change remains one of the most serious environmental challenges facing the planet. They confirmed their support to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and emphasised the important role of its Kyoto Protocol as the only existing global instrument to pursue the ultimate objective of the UN Framework Convention. They welcomed the decision of the Government of the Russian Federation to submit the proposal to ratify the Kyoto Protocol to the State Duma, and urged countries that have not yet ratified the Kyoto Protocol to do so soon. They will work together for the post 2012 framework to develop global action on the basis of an international partnership which enables the participation of all countries based on their common but differentiated responsibilities in order to meet the objectives of the UNFCCC and increase the effectiveness of action in addressing climate change.

**1.12.** The Leaders underlined the need to reinforce ASEM cooperation in the field of international migration through the concrete actions identified by ASEM senior officials in charge of migration, and expressed support for UN efforts to tackle migration issues.

## **2. Closer Economic Partnership**

**2.1.** The Leaders welcomed Asia's growing importance in the global economy and the overall economic growth rates of the EU. They encouraged the ASEM partners to continue domestic economic reform in accordance with their respective needs and priorities with a view to ensuring sustained development.

**2.2.** The Leaders reaffirmed their determination to bring forward the Asia-Europe economic partnership to a new stage of comprehensive and forward-looking cooperation, and to this end, adopted the "**Hanoi Declaration on Closer ASEM Economic Partnership**", which sets out directions and measures for strengthening ASEM economic cooperation. They tasked Ministers to undertake the accelerated implementation of this important Declaration.

**2.3.** The Leaders agreed on the need to intensify and focus ASEM economic activities on enhancing Asia-Europe trade and investment facilitation and promotion; strengthening coordination and cooperation on



financial issues, including greater cooperation among regional bond markets; expanding cooperation in areas of common interest such as information & communication technology and knowledge-based economy, energy, transport, tourism, intellectual property rights, small and medium enterprises; promoting sustainable economic growth, dialogue on employment, and the reduction of development gap among ASEM partners; enhancing the role and deeper involvement of the business community.

**2.4.** The Leaders expressed the concern over high oil prices that could slow down regions' economic growth. They thus agreed on the need to call on oil producers to provide adequate supplies to ensure moderate prices, and stressed the importance of energy conservation and the increase in energy efficiency in consumer nations.

**2.5.** The Leaders highly appreciated the thoughtful and important recommendations submitted by the ASEM Task Force for an Asia-Europe closer economic partnership, and tasked Economic and Financial Ministers and their Senior Officials to review and follow up with its positive recommendations, including the development of an Asian bond market and the ASEM Virtual Promotion Center for Trade, Investment and Tourism, where practical and feasible, in their future work with a view to achieving concrete outcomes.

**2.6.** The Leaders agreed to promote and strengthen interaction between Government and the business community for closer Asia-Europe economic partnership. They welcomed positive recommendations made by the 9th Asia-Europe Business Forum in this regard, and tasked Economic and Financial Ministers and their Senior Officials to study the applicability of these recommendations and report to ASEM 6.

**2.7.** The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to an open and fair multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO), and agreed to further strengthen ASEM collaboration and coordination on WTO-related issues for a successful conclusion of the Doha negotiations. They thus expressed their strong support for early accession of the Lao PDR and Vietnam to the WTO.

**2.8.** The Leaders congratulated WTO members on reaching an agreement on the Framework for the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations in Geneva, and urged WTO members to undertake the remaining work aimed at achieving balanced and sustained progress in the future negotiations.

**2.9.** The Leaders, welcoming initiatives for economic integration based on non-discriminatory regionalism, underlined the need to ensure that all



regional and bilateral agreements of economic integration should be consistent with WTO rules.

### **3. Expanding and Strengthening Cooperation in Other Fields.**

**3.1.** The Leaders acknowledged that dialogue and cooperation among cultures and civilizations is one of effective measures to enhance understanding and tolerance among people. They underlined the importance of dialogue on cultures and civilizations in preserving world peace, security and cooperation for development, particularly in context of globalization.

**3.2.** The Leaders adopted the “**ASEM Declaration on Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations**”, expressing their shared conviction on this important topic and reaffirming their strong commitment to further promote this dialogue at all levels within ASEM framework on the basis of mutual respect and equality.

**3.3.** The Leaders, noting with satisfaction all ASEM activities in promoting dialogue among cultures and civilizations, supported recommendations adopted by Ministers at the First ASEM Conference on Cultures and Civilizations held in Beijing in December 2003, and requested the Second Conference to be held in France in 2005 to develop a long-term plan for ASEM dialogue and cooperation in this important field. They encouraged the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) to make further contribution to this dialogue through undertaking concrete activities and programs. They also welcomed the planned inter-faith dialogue to be held in Indonesia in 2005.

**3.4.** The Leaders underlined their conviction that the cultural diversity is the common heritage of humanity, and agreed on the need to promote unity in diversity and respect for the equal dignity of all cultures and civilizations. They emphasized in particular the need to preserve the national cultural identity, in face of the ongoing rapid advances of information & communication technology and globalization, and rejected the imposition and discrimination of culture values under any form or manifestation. In this respect, they underlined their commitment to pursue dialogue within the UNESCO in the course of ongoing negotiations on a draft convention on cultural diversity.

**3.5.** The Leaders acknowledged the importance and potentials for Asia-Europe cooperation at all levels in various fields such as social development, labor and employment, education and training, public health and environment. They agreed to further expand and strengthen ASEM cooperation in these fields, and tasked Ministers to work out action- and result-oriented programs to this end.



**3.6.** The Leaders appreciated the important work carried out by the ASEF to foster people-to-people, cultural and intellectual exchanges between Asia and Europe. They adopted the recommendations for Organizational and Management Strategies and Long-Term Financial Sustainability of ASEF as annexed to further encourage the Foundation's activities so as to align more closely with the ASEM process. They welcomed the launching of the ASEM Infoboard as a pilot project by ASEF. They encouraged new partners to participate in ASEF, and the ASEF Executive Office to make necessary arrangements so that the Board of Governors' meeting in November 2004 in Hanoi would include representatives from new ASEM members.

#### **4. Recent Regional Developments**

**4.1.** The Leaders welcomed the integration process of the European Union, including its latest membership enlargement, which would help promote peace, stability and development in Europe. They also welcomed efforts towards closer cooperation in Asia, especially the ASEAN's determination to build an ASEAN Community by 2020 as specifically reflected in the Bali Concord II, as well as enhanced cooperation under the framework of the ASEAN Plus 3, ACD and trilateral cooperation among China, Japan and the ROK.

**4.2.** The Leaders noted that these latest developments in Asia and Europe would present both opportunities and challenges for ASEM in the process of enhancing dialogue and cooperation. They urged ASEM partners to make every effort to fully exploit all potentials to develop Asia-Europe synergy and effectively deal with the challenges, including possible implications on the promotion of Asia-Europe partnership.

**4.3.** The Leaders expressed their strong support for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula through a peaceful solution and the Six-Party Talks process, and urged the earliest resumption of the Six-Party Talks. They encouraged the parties to continue to take coordinated steps to address the nuclear issue and address all the related concerns. They also supported the continued dialogue and cooperation between the ROK and the DPRK, which would in turn help promote peace and mutual prosperity on the Korean Peninsula.

**4.4.** The Leaders discussed the situation in the Middle East and urged both parties to implement their respective obligations under the Road Map with a view to paving the way for the two-state solution.

**4.5.** The Leaders confirmed their support to the Interim Iraqi Government in its effort to ensure security and stability in the country, and their willingness to engage together with the UN and the international



community to achieve these goals and to contribute to the reconstruction of Iraq. They also look forward to the holding of elections as scheduled for January 2005, and immediately thereafter, the formation of a constitutionally-elected government of Iraq.

**4.6.** The Leaders expressed their support for the reconstruction and stabilization of Afghanistan and for the Afghan Transitional Administration. In this regard, they noted with concern the continuing threats posed by terrorist activities and by opium production and trafficking, and recalled the need for comprehensive disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of all armed factions. They welcomed the Presidential election taking place on 9 October 2004 and expressed their hope that it would bring about peace and security for the country and stabilize the democratization process.

**4.7.** The Leaders took note of the briefing on the recent political developments in Myanmar given by the Head of the Myanmar delegation. In this connection, they encouraged all stakeholders in the country to work together to ensure a successful outcome of the ongoing national reconciliation process. The National Convention should be an important element in the national reconciliation and democratization process and a forum for a genuine open debate with the participation of all political groups in the country. They looked forward to the early lifting of restrictions placed on political parties in accordance with the assurances given by Myanmar. They also reaffirmed their support for the efforts of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General.

## **5. Taking the ASEM Process Forward**

**5.1.** The Leaders, noting with satisfaction the dynamic development and significant achievements of the ASEM process since its inception, underlined the need for ASEM to provide a foundation and framework for fostering the Asia-Europe comprehensive partnership in the 21st century. To this end, they agreed to further revitalise and substantiate the ASEM process, moving towards enhanced cooperation with specific goals and resulted-oriented programs/projects. They tasked the SOM to elaborate on areas of substantive cooperation for consideration at the next Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kyoto, 2005.

**5.2.** The Leaders agreed that the development of ASEM which remains an open, evolutionary and informal process should continue to be based on the objectives and key principles as set out in the Asia-Europe Cooperation Framework (AECF 2000) adopted by ASEM 3. They reiterated the importance of full participation at the highest level by all Leaders and the need to carry forward in a balanced manner the three





key pillars by strengthening political dialogue, reinforcing economic cooperation and promoting cooperation in other areas.

**5.3.** The Leaders also agreed on the need to continue the improvement of the ASEM coordination and management mechanism as commensurate with the nature and development level of ASEM. To this end, they endorsed the Foreign Ministers' "Recommendations on ASEM Working Methods" as annexed, which shall constitute an integral part of the AECF 2000.

## **6. ASEM Enlargement**

**6.1.** The Leaders warmly welcomed the admission into ASEM of 13 countries, namely the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Hungary, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Malta, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of Poland, the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Slovenia.

**6.2.** The Leaders, commending the enlargement as an important milestone in the evolution of the ASEM process, underlined that the participation of the 13 new members would provide greater dynamism to the ASEM process, help enhance and expand Asia-Europe dialogue and cooperation. They stressed the need to assist and facilitate the active engagement of the new members into the ASEM process, with a view to strengthening the unity in diversity within ASEM.

**6.3.** The Leaders, emphasizing the need to consolidate the ASEM process after the enlargement, agreed to consider future enlargement, taking into account the continued EU enlargement and important role of other candidates. They tasked Foreign Ministers and Senior Officials to study and submit their recommendations on the continued improvement of ASEM institutional mechanism, including the possibility of moving towards an ASEM Secretariat at an appropriate time, and the issue of future membership enlargement, based on their ideas expressed at ASEM 5.

**7.** The Leaders adopted a list of new initiatives to promote cooperation on various fields as annexed. They also adopted the ASEM Work Programme for 2004-2006 as annexed.

**8.** The Leaders accepted with gratitude Finland's offer to host ASEM 6 and looked forward to meeting again on 14-15 September 2006.

*Hanoi, Vietnam  
9 October 2004*

## ASEM WORK PROGRAMME 2004-2006

(To be used as annex to the Chairman's Statement)

Activities	Dates	Venue
ASEM CM	16 January	Dublin, Ireland
1 <sup>st</sup> SEM Bali Initiative Workshop on Deposit Insurance System and Valuation	19-23 January	Jakarta, Indonesia
ASEM Seminar on the Protection and Enforcement of well-know Marks	11-13 February	Singapore
ASEM Deputy Finance Ministers' Meeting	1-2 March	Cork
Asian ASEM SOM	2-3 March	Hanoi, Vietnam
ASEM Economic CM	5 March	Malahide, Ireland
ASEM CM	10 March	Hanoi, Vietnam
4 <sup>th</sup> Task Force Meeting	11-12 March	Bangkok, Thailand
3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership	25-26 March	Hue, Vietnam
ASEM FMM 6 Preparatory SOM	16 April	Kildare, Ireland
FMM 6	17-18 April	Kildare, Ireland
ASEM Informal Seminar on the Future of Employment in ASEM	21-23 April	Hanoi, Vietnam
ASEM Core Group Meeting	24 April	Washington, U.S.A
TFAP Standards and Conformity Assessment Working Group	29-30 April	Brussels, Belgium
5 <sup>th</sup> Task Force Meeting	17 May	Barcelona, Spain
ASEM PPP (Public Private Partnership Seminar	20 May	Tokyo, Japan
Expert Group TEIN (Trans-Eurasia Information Network)	20-21 May	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
15 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEF BOG	27-28 May	Dublin, Ireland
3 <sup>rd</sup> ASEM Youth Dialogue	28 June -2 July	Hanoi, Vietnam
ASEM Seminar on Future of Employment and Labour	1-2 June	Berlin, Germany

ASEM Symposium on "Iron Silk Road"	17-18 June	Seoul, Korea
Asia – Europe Seminar on Cultural Policy	24-27 June	Bangkok, Thailand
SOMTI 10	<i>To be confirmed</i>	<i>(tbc)</i>
FnMM 6	<i>(tbc)</i>	<i>(tbc)</i>
ASEM CM	9 July	Tokyo, Japan
2 <sup>nd</sup> ASEM Bali Initiative Workshop on Deposit Insurance System and Valuation	14-16 July	Jakarta, Indonesia
ASEM SOM	6-7 September	Hanoi, Vietnam
EMM 6	<i>(tbc)</i>	<i>(tbc)</i>
6 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Informal Seminar on Human Rights	16-17 September	Suzhou, China
ASEM DGs Migration Annual Meeting	Last quarter	Netherlands <i>(tbc)</i>
9 <sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Business Forum	7-8 October	Hanoi, Vietnam
Preparatory Meetings for ASEM 5	6-7 October	Hanoi, Vietnam
<b>ASEM 5 Summit</b>	8-9 October	Hanoi, Vietnam
ASEM Conference on Anti-Terrorism	18-20 October	Berlin, Germany
ASEM Workshop on EU/Asia S&T Cooperation on Clean Technology	3-4 November	Hanoi, Vietnam
4 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Conference on E-commerce "eSolutions for a Global Economy"	22-23 November	London, UK
16 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEF BOG	25-26 November	Hanoi, Vietnam
ASEM Workshop on Urban Forestry	29 November – 3 December	Suzhou and Beijing, China
8 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Young Leaders' Symposium	30 November – 3 December	Netherlands

## 2005

Preparatory Meeting for 2 <sup>nd</sup> ASEM Conference on Cultures and Civilizations	January	Malaysia
Standards and Conformity Assessment Conference	Early 2005	Japan
FMM 7	6-7 May	Kyoto, Japan

ASEM Youth Games	2-8 June	Bangkok, Thailand
2 <sup>nd</sup> ASEM Conference on Cultures and Civilizations	6-11 June	France
3 <sup>rd</sup> ASEM Environment Ministers' Meeting Asia	<i>(tbc)</i>	<i>Asia (tbc)</i>
TFAP Seminars	Ongoing after Oct. 2004	Various to be arranged
IPAP Seminars	Ongoing after Oct. 2004	Various to be arranged
Customs Cooperation	Ongoing after Oct. 2004	Various to be arranged
Follow-up Workshop on E-commerce	2005/2006	France
FnMM 7	<u><i>tbc</i></u>	<i>tbc</i>
EMM 7	<u><i>tbc</i></u>	<i>tbc</i>
Preparatory Meeting for ASEM High-Level Conference on the Applications of ICT in Human Resource Development and Capacity Building	<u><i>tbc</i></u>	<i>tbc</i>

### 2006

<b>ASEM 6 Summit</b>	<i>tbc</i>	Finland
ASEM High-Level Conference on the Applications of ICT in Human Resource Development and Capacity Building	<i>tbc</i>	Vietnam <i>(tbc)</i>



**HANOI DECLARATION  
ON CLOSER ASEM ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

HANOI, 9 OCTOBER 2004



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## HANOI DECLARATION on Closer ASEM Economic Partnership

1- At the fifth Asia - Europe Meeting (ASEM) held in Hanoi on 8-9 October 2004, Leaders had in-depth discussion on closer ASEM economic partnership and agreed to issue the following declaration:

2- *Reiterating* the principles of ASEM economic cooperation which include commitment to the market economy, closer cooperation between governments and businesses, non-discriminatory liberalization and regionalism, compliance with the WTO rules, mutual respect and equal partnership, with recognition of the economic diversity within and between Asia and Europe;

3- *Recognising* the economic potential of the two regions, the value of synergy between them and the importance of ASEM economic cooperation for achieving this potential; and *commending* the contributions that the ASEM Trade Facilitation and Investment Promotion Action Plans have made towards this since 1998;

4- *Encouraged* by the steady improvement of Asian economy from the setback caused by the financial crisis in 1997 and the enlargement of the European Union, which will provide broader opportunities to further deepen economic partnership between Asia and Europe in an enlarged ASEM;

5- *Determined* to work together in facing challenges to our economy, such as the uncertain oil prices, gap between rich and poor, digital divide, HIV/AIDS, and population ageing;

6- *Expressing* our gratitude for the reports submitted by the ASEM Taskforce and Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF);

**And hereby declare as follows:**

7- The ASEM partners will renew efforts to foster a closer ASEM economic partnership in order to bring into full play the potential and synergy of the two regions, to accelerate the process of regional cooperation and integration, to reinforce the sustainability and effectiveness of the partnership and to increase the role of ASEM in the process of economic globalisation. This work is to be carried forward in line with the overall objectives of reinforcing ASEM economic cooperation, namely sustainable economic growth, improved business environment and opportunities, facilitated trade in goods and services and investment flows,



contribution to the global economic dialogue, responses to the impact of globalisation and increased living standards of our people.

8- We declare a firm commitment to pursue closer economic cooperation between our two regions through closer economic partnership, aimed at expansion of trade in goods and services and investment. We aim to move the partnership forward on an equal and fair basis, making use of informal policy dialogues, sharing of information and experience, and joint working on practical and project oriented objectives. We are committed to work for greater efficiency and effectiveness of the ASEM process, following the guidelines below.

### **Strengthening trade and investment flows between the two regions**

9- We commit ourselves to carry forward ASEM economic activities, taking into account the Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP), Investment Promotion Action Plan (IPAP), and other forms of economic cooperation. The economic activities of ASEM in the period ahead will include efforts on trade and investment facilitation and promotion, reducing trade barriers, thus stimulating trade and investment flows between the two regions, strengthening Public-Private Partnership (PPP), and enhancing dialogues on coordination in areas of mutual interest, important trade and investment themes such as capacity building, policy transparency and joint investment promotion.

10- We call on our Economic Ministers with their Senior Officials to further identify and pursue new initiatives relating to trade and investment facilitation and promotion, to exchange information on trade and investment opportunities in the new ASEM partner countries, and to explore complementarities and scope for synergy between existing initiatives of ASEAN, ASEAN + 3 (China, Japan and Korea) and the EU with the aim of maximising the effectiveness of trade and investment between regions.

### **Cooperation in finance**

11- Financial cooperation under closer ASEM economic partnership will be strengthened through information sharing, cooperation and dialogue. Areas for attention include: monetary and fiscal policies, financial market development and surveillance, debt management, structural reforms, the actions against money laundering and the funding of terrorism as well as the challenges posed by ageing populations and poverty. The overall aim of our cooperation is a sound, sustainable and resilient financial architecture in order to cope with potential financial shocks, and to support broad-based and sustainable growth in Asia and Europe in the future.

12- In such a spirit, with reference to the report of the ASEM Task Force for Closer Economic Partnership, we call on Finance Ministers to further explore the



recommendations and other ways to strengthen this partnership within their responsibilities.

#### **Cooperation in other sectors**

13- We firmly believe that the ASEM process plays or could play a constructive and complementary role to the course of cooperation in specific fields including energy, transport, IPR protection, including enforcement, tourism, E-commerce, and SME facilitation in and between the two regions. We wish to see cooperation in these sectors strengthened through sharing of information, experiences and best practices, and where appropriate practically oriented cooperation and coordination activities.

14- Taking into account the current oil market situation, we are willing to find a common approach and possibilities for cooperation on voluntary and commercial basis in areas of mutual interests and concerns on energy related issues.

#### **Complementing support for the multilateral trading system with regionalism**

15- We reaffirm the importance of the multilateral rule-based trading system under the World Trade Organisation (WTO). This will remain the most effective and legitimate means of managing and expanding trade relations between ASEM partners.

16- We welcome the recent breakthrough in the Doha global trade round with the adoption of negotiating frameworks for agreed areas, and we urge WTO members to undertake remaining work aimed at achieving sustained progress in the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations. We express our determination to cooperate in pushing forward the Doha negotiation to an ambitious and balanced conclusion as the first priority on our trade agenda, so as to strengthen and improve the multilateral trading system, to the benefit of all.

17- We recognise the importance of integration into the multilateral, rule-based trading system, and extend strong support for the early accession of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the WTO.

18- We note the increasing momentum in Europe to attain deeper and broader economic integration, as well as the creation of a broader network of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) in East and South-east Asia. We agree that regionalism that complements the multilateral trade system and in combination with an outward-looking approach to trading relations with partners in other regions can contribute to greater liberalisation over time and prove a great benefit to the global economy. We therefore welcome ASEM partners' initiatives for closer economic cooperation, but emphasize the essential importance of carrying cooperation forward in ways which are consistent with WTO rules, and which do not undermine the multilateral trading system. We commit ourselves to respect this principle in developing the closer economic partnership within ASEM.





## Interaction with business community

19- We recognise the role of the business community as a driving force, and regard the AEBF as an important bridge linking business communities and governments as well as individual business, including SMEs in the two regions. We encourage the AEBF to explore ways to enhance linkages between small and large firms and to promote cooperation among SMEs, including intermediary agencies.

20- We emphasise the need to improve business involvement in ASEM process and make it more responsive, relevant and substantially interactive with the business community. In this context we take note of the recommendations made by the AEBF. Consultations within the business community and beyond should be enhanced to ensure that any new steps have full backing from, and support of, those whom they are intended to benefit.

21- We encourage deeper involvement of national and regional business organizations and networks such as Chambers of Commerce, Employers' Federations and eminent business people in cooperation activities under the ASEM Economic Pillar. We call on Economic and Finance Ministers, and the next AEBF Chair further to improve ways of interaction between businesses and governments.

## Conclusion

22- We express our strong belief that the closer ASEM economic partnership developed in line with this Declaration will promote sustainable growth and shared prosperity in our Asia and Europe continents. We call on our Economic and Finance Ministers to meet at the earliest opportunity to take action forward under these guidelines and coordinate with their fellow-Ministers with specific responsibilities as appropriate, taking account of proposals recently put forward, including the recommendations submitted by the ASEM Taskforce and AEBF.

Done in Hanoi – Vietnam  
October 9<sup>th</sup> 2004



ASEM

**ASEM DECLARATION  
ON DIALOGUE AMONG  
CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS**

HANOI, 9 OCTOBER 2004



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## ASEM DECLARATION on Dialogue among Cultures and Civilisations

1. At the Fifth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 5) held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 8 and 9 October 2004, the heads of State and Government of 13 Asian and 25 European nations and the President of the European Commission exchanged views under agenda item "Cultural Diversity and National Cultures in the Age of Information Technology and Globalization" and agreed the following:
  
2. Developments in the international situation since the Copenhagen Summit (September 2002) have demonstrated the persistence of the major challenges facing the international community. Against the backdrop of the stepping up of trade liberalisation movements and growing globalisation, we are witnessing a process whereby the world is becoming more open, more inter-linked and more integrated with the development of new information and communication technologies and the emergence of globalised mass culture. At the same time, international terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the spread of racism as well as racial and religious intolerance, the widening gap between the rich and the poor constitute urgent threats to the international community, challenging our capacity to build a peaceful and harmonious world.
  
3. In the face of these challenges, the international community needs more than ever before to define responses together. This calls for dialogue among cultures and civilizations on the basis of equality and mutual respect, which not only contributes to the prevention of potential conflicts, the promotion of common development, and the humanisation of globalisation so that it can benefit all, but also is fundamentally important for safeguarding the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, and promoting universal human rights as defined notably in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.



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4. The Heads of State and Government of ASEM reaffirmed that cultural diversity is the common heritage of humanity and a source of innovation, inspiration and an important driving force for economic progress and social development of human society. It provides a tremendous opportunity to build a more stable and peaceful world, because it calls not for exclusion, but for inclusion, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation.
5. The Heads of State and Government recognized ASEM encompasses cultures and civilisations of both the East and the West, among which geographic convenience and long-standing interaction have laid a favourable foundation for enhanced dialogue and cultural exchange. They recognized that the ASEM process should also seek to foster a sense of partnership among the peoples of the two regions. They noted with satisfaction the progress made in the dialogue among cultures and civilisations organised by ASEM, which has helped to promote mutual understanding and respect of cultural diversities and thereby enhancing a culture of peace, tolerance and harmony among societies which provide the foundation for sound and stable relations between the two regions. In this context, they underlined the important role of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in building a bridge between civil societies by means of its programmes to promote intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.
6. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the results of the ASEM Conference on Cultures and Civilisations held in Beijing on 3 and 4 December 2003 and the recommendations adopted by the Ministers. They underlined the importance of relevant international instruments and the need for implementing the commitments they have made, in particular the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity adopted by consensus by the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Conference of UNESCO. They called, in particular, on the ASEM States to become parties to the conventions on culture adopted at UNESCO.
7. In view of the above, the Heads of State and Government affirmed the importance of concerted actions for dialogue among cultures and civilizations and decided to continue the co-operation started in ASEM, making priorities of the following areas:



### 7.1. Education, higher education and training:

- *Stepping up educational exchanges, in particular by means of programmes developed by ASEM, e.g. ongoing ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme Phase I and II, Asia-Europe Institute(AEI), taking note of the Erasmus Mundus programmes set up by the European Commission, and the substantial financial contribution foreseen for Asia-Europe fellowships and exchanges;*
- *Enhancing and intensifying youth exchanges between Asia and Europe through youth-friendly programmes such as ASEM Youth Games and ASEM Young Political Leaders Forum;*
- *Giving a greater place in education to improving knowledge of other cultures and civilizations in order to promote tolerance towards ethnic, social, cultural, religious, linguistic groups and nations, creating conditions for the eradication of ethnic prejudices and religious intolerance;*
- *Facilitating exchanges of experience in education and training, including the continuation of the ASEM Life-Long-Learning initiative.*

### 7.2. Cultural exchanges and cooperation:

- *Recognising the right of States to develop public cultural policies (audiovisual, publishing, translation, etc);*
- *Facilitating exchanges of experts in the field of arts and culture including performing arts, visual arts and literary works, as well as exchanges of information and experience relating to this field among ASEM countries;*
- *Encouraging exchanges of films, broadcasting programs, publications, exhibitions, concerts and theatrical performances among ASEM countries;*
- *Supporting participation in international festivals, fairs, fora, exhibitions, conferences, seminars and other cultural events organized by ASEM countries;*
- *Promoting cooperation in other cultural activities to enhance understanding of other cultures and civilisations, and to strengthen friendly relations among ASEM countries.*



### 7.3. Exchange of ideas and knowledge, and promotion of creativity:

- *Sharing the new information and communication technologies to facilitate the flow of ideas between Europe and Asia;*
- *Developing co-operation between Asia and Europe to protect intellectual property and copyright;*
- *promoting exchange of experiences in the field of creativity;*
- *Developing policies favorable to creativity and artistic innovation.*

### 7.4. Promotion of sustainable and responsible cultural tourism:

- *Promoting preservation and rational utilization of natural and cultural heritage;*
- *Exchanging experiences in developing sustainable and responsible cultural tourism;*
- *Promoting and supporting cooperation in human resource development and other areas to expand sustainable and responsible cultural tourism as a means to bring about poverty alleviation.*

### 7.5. Protection and promotion of cultural resources:

- *Preserving and developing both traditional and contemporary forms of arts and culture;*
- *Exchanging experiences and conducting cooperation in the protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage;*
- *Promoting experiences exchange and cooperation on creative industry;*
- *Supporting cooperation and exchange among museums in Asia and Europe, e.g. ASEMUS.*

### 7.6. Strengthening the capacity of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF):

- *Encouraging civil societies in Asia and Europe to actively participate in cultural exchange activities within ASEM framework;*
- *Supporting initiatives taken within the framework of ASEF, giving priority to the ongoing ASEF Cultures and Civilisations Dialogue Programmes.*



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8. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their support for the work undertaken within the framework of the United Nations to promote the dialogue among cultures and civilisations. They looked forward to actively participating in relevant follow-up activities when UN celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005.
  
  9. The Heads of State and Government welcomed, in particular, the launch at UNESCO of negotiations for an international convention on the protection of the diversity of cultural contents and artistic expressions as an important potential contribution to the promotion of consolidation of cultural diversity and enhancement of intercultural exchanges at the national, regional and international levels. In this context, the specific nature of cultural goods and services should be recognized. The right for each State to define and implement the policies required to protect and develop cultural and linguistic diversity should be recognized; the current negotiations, without prejudice to their result, should also allow a proper articulation between the provisions of the convention and other international agreements. International solidarity and the development of capabilities in this area should be encouraged.
  
  10. The Heads of State and Government expressed their appreciation for the continued dialogue among cultures and civilisations within ASEM at political level. They welcomed with satisfaction the announcement of the next Culture Ministers' Meeting in Paris in 2005, and requested the ministers to develop a long-term plan on promoting dialogue among civilizations and stepping up cultural exchange between Asia and Europe.

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