

Closing remarks by President Donald Tusk at the 12th ASEM summit

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We have just concluded two days of good discussions about strengthening cooperation between Europe and Asia. We also agreed to renew our support for the rules-based international order. And I believe that this is the most important signal from this summit, especially valid in the current geopolitical context.

We do not agree on everything. But what we have in common is more important than any disagreement. That is why we want our two great continents to be ever more connected. From the European side, our motivation is clear: we want Asians and Europeans to trade more with each other, to visit each other more often, to save the planet's habitat and, finally, to enhance each other's security in these uncertain times.

We also recognised the challenges and opportunities posed by migration, and the need to work together in forging an effective global response.

During the retreat session we discussed the security environment in our regions, the need to uphold international law, the global non-proliferation regime and tackling terrorism together.

Finally, it is worth noting that a common theme in our discussions was sustainable and rules-based connectivity. While the free flow of goods, investment, information, ideas and people contributes to global growth, I strongly believe that genuine connectivity between our regions will be achieved by bringing more people together through education and exchanges, joint research programmes and tourism.

To conclude, I would like to thank you all for the fruitful exchanges and frank opinions.

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Weekly schedule of President Donald Tusk

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Eurojust hosts Consultative Forum of top EU prosecutors

Strengthening the fight against terrorism and migrant smuggling

The Hague, 19 October 2018

Top prosecutors from across Europe gathered today at Eurojust in The Hague to tackle the ever-changing challenges of cross-border terrorism and migrant smuggling, share new strategies in using the [European Investigation Order](#), discuss developments in the area of e-evidence and prepare for the new Eurojust Regulation. The 13th meeting of the [Consultative Forum](#) of Prosecutors General and Directors of Public Prosecutions of the Member States of the European Union (the Consultative Forum) works towards making the cooperation between judges, investigators and prosecutors in the European Union simpler, quicker and stronger.

This year's meeting was co-hosted by Ms Asya Petrova, Deputy Prosecutor General of Bulgaria, and Ms Barbara Göth-Flemmich, Head of the International Criminal Law Department of Austria, in the context of the Bulgarian and

Austrian Presidencies of the Council of the European Union. Consultative Forum members stressed the importance of comparing problems and solutions, and sharing admissible evidence, including e-evidence, to help practitioners involved in international criminal investigations deliver more and better results in less time. They also pointed out the need to promote the work of Eurojust as the EU's judicial information hub and to use judicial cooperation tools, such as the European Investigation Order (EIO), more often and more efficiently.

Ms Petrova said: *The channels used by migrants and asylum seekers to pass through Bulgaria are often also used by terrorists and human traffickers. This situation creates a major challenge for our country and requires a higher level of scrutiny and a coordinated approach at European level to identify the threats against, and be able to ensure, peace and security on the continent.*

Ms Göth-Flemmich said: *Crime does not stop at national borders. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to strengthen the cooperation between the prosecution services in the European Union and beyond. The Consultative Forum provides a key platform to discuss new developments in our common fight against transnational crime.*

Mr Ladislav Hamran, President of Eurojust, said: *At Eurojust, we serve the joint vision of justice for all our fellow European citizens. This year, Eurojust had once more the special honour and pleasure to welcome at its premises top prosecutors from all EU countries. The Consultative Forum is a unique opportunity for them to share national best practice and work more closely together towards the common goal of protection, security and justice.*

Counter-terrorism

Among the main topics of the Consultative Forum's meeting were developments in national legislation in the area of counter-terrorism, current challenges and lessons learned from investigations of terrorism cases, as well as the experience gained through judicial cooperation between EU Member States and third States with the support of Eurojust and Europol. Forum members looked into effective mechanisms to both prevent and combat transnational terrorism, such as the enhanced sharing of information. The conclusions of Eurojust's annual meeting on counter-terrorism for 2018 were also presented to the Forum's participants.

Eurojust priority areas

This year's meeting paid special attention to Eurojust's operational activities in key crime areas, such as migrant smuggling, faster and easier access to e-evidence, with Eurojust in a coordinating role, as well as the effective implementation of the European Investigation Order (EIO), allowing for direct exchange and networking between the judicial authorities of different States. To that effect, the members of the Forum took note of the conclusions of this year's Eurojust meeting on migrant smuggling and Eurojust meeting on the EIO. The President of Eurojust also seized the opportunity to share his future vision of digital justice in the European Union, in which operational data is exchanged in an automated, structured and secure manner.

New Eurojust Regulation

Forum members were informed about the EU's new judicial landscape following the reform of Eurojust, and the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPP0). The new Eurojust Regulation is in the final stages of the legislative procedure, awaiting formal adoption by the Council. The new Regulation will provide Eurojust with a new governance set-up and the basis for cooperation with the EPP0, and will be aligned with the EU framework on external relations and data protection. Forum members reflected on the impact of these changes and new opportunities to reinforce judicial cooperation against serious cross-border organised crime.

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ASEM Summit: Europe and Asia – Global Partners for Global Challenges

Jean-Claude **Juncker**, President of the European Commission and Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, represented the European Union at the Summit. Heads of State or Government of the 28 EU Member States, Switzerland and Norway, in addition to 21 Heads of State or Government from Asian countries, as well as the Secretary General of ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), were also invited. The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica **Mogherini**, and the Vice-President of the European Commission for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, Jyrki **Katainen**, also participated at the Summit.

*"We want to give our relationship with Asia, which is already very dynamic – as illustrated by the numerous trade and cooperation agreements we have, fresh impetus", [said](#) President Jean-Claude **Juncker** at the Summit's plenary session this morning. "Only a multilateral approach will enable us to confront global challenges. This is why I reiterate our commitment to support multilateral organisations in all their efforts, including the United Nations and the World Trade Organisation – a World Trade Organisation that we have to reform together, so that its rules correspond better to the new realities. It is by acting together that we will be able to preserve our planet [...], contribute to resolving conflicts, eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, [...] and that we can better manage migration flows and develop free and fair trade."*

The full remarks of President **Juncker** at the plenary session of the ASEM Summit are available [online](#).

"What Europe and Asia agree together matters not only for the two of us, but for the entire world. Together we represent 55% of global trade, 60% of global population, 65% of global economy and 75% of global tourism; together

*we represent a real global power”, said the High Representative/Vice-President, Federica **Mogherini** at the Summit’s press conference. “We come out of this two-day Summit with a reinforced global partnership between Europe and Asia. It has allowed us to translate our global weight into concrete policy initiatives – on regional and international security, foreign policy issues, climate change action, free and fair trade, and the digital agenda to name a few. Together, we can make a real difference for the world.”*

High Representative/Vice-President **Mogherini**’s remarks at the press conference are available [online](#).

A [Chair’s Statement](#), covering the wide range of areas discussed and focussing on ASEM’s three pillars – namely political, economic and financial, and social and cultural – has also been issued.

Sustainable connectivity between Europe and Asia

In his [address](#) at the Summit’s plenary session, President **Juncker** highlighted the importance of investing in more sustainable connectivity between the European Union and Asia. The European Union has this week adopted a [new strategy on connecting Europe and Asia](#), building on the [proposal](#) of the European Commission and the High Representative in September. With financial, environmental, and social sustainability at the core of the EU’s approach to connectivity, the EU’s objective is to develop sustainable connectivity networks across the digital, transport, energy and human dimensions, as well as to strengthen partnerships at the bilateral, regional and international levels, in particular to ensure a rules-based approach and interoperability of standards.

As a contribution to enhancing Euro-Asian connectivity, as well as to demonstrate the huge potential of the relationship, the European Commission has this week launched the [ASEM Sustainable Connectivity Portal](#), offering policymakers, researchers, businesses and other stakeholders alike a wealth of data on the political, economic and societal relationships between the two continents. A [full press release](#) and [factsheet](#) are available online. In parallel to the Summit, a number of events to bring Europeans and Asians together are taking place in Belgium, such as the [ASEM Cultural Festival](#), the [Young Leaders’ Summit](#), the [Business Forum](#), the [People’s Forum](#) for civil society, the [Labour Forum](#) and the [Parliamentary Partnership Meeting](#).

Strengthening EU-Asia bilateral ties

In the margins of the ASEM Summit, the European Union signed a number of bilateral agreements to deepen and expand its relations with Singapore and Vietnam respectively.

President **Juncker**, President Tusk and Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz signed, together with the Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Long, the EU-Singapore **Free Trade Agreement**. In the presence of the leaders, EU High Representative/Vice-President, Federica **Mogherini** and the Minister of Foreign

Affairs of Singapore, Vivian Balakrishnan signed the EU-Singapore **Framework Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation** and Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström and Mr S Iswaran, Minister for Communications and Information, and Trade Relations of Singapore signed the EU-Singapore **Investment Protection Agreement**. These agreements represent a significant step forward for a more comprehensive and mutually-beneficial relationship between the EU and Singapore, opening new opportunities for European producers, farmers, service providers and investments, as well as strengthening political and sectoral cooperation through more formal and intensive exchanges for example in environment, climate change and counter-terrorism. More information is available in a [dedicated press release](#) and on the [website](#).

The European Union is also stepping up its relations with **Vietnam**. Earlier this week, the European Commission [adopted the EU-Vietnam trade and investment agreements](#), paving the way for their signature and conclusion. The trade agreement will eliminate virtually all tariffs on goods traded between the two sides. The agreement also includes a strong, legally binding commitment to sustainable development, including the respect of human rights, labour rights, environmental protection and the fight against climate change, with an explicit reference to the Paris Agreement. Today, the EU and Vietnam signed a **Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement**. The Agreement will help improve forest governance, address illegal logging and promote trade in verified legal timber products from Vietnam to the EU, and other markets. In addition to the variety of social, economic and environmental benefits associated with better management of the forestry sector in Vietnam, the licensing will simplify business for timber traders. More information is available [online](#).

EU-ASEAN Leaders' Meeting

Following the ASEM Summit, a Leaders' Meeting between the European Union and ASEAN took place. President Jean-Claude **Juncker** and President Donald Tusk, accompanied by EU High Representative/Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** represented the European Union, whilst the Association of Southeast Asian Nations was represented by the Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong, as the country holding the ASEAN Chairmanship for 2018, the Prime Minister of Thailand, Prayut Chan-o-cha, as the country which will hold the Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2019, and the ASEAN Secretary General, Lim Jock Hoi.

"The EU's partnership with ASEAN is founded on common interests across many areas. We share common values – in the European Union and in the founding charter of ASEAN – which need to be respected by all", said President Juncker at the [opening of the Leaders' Meeting](#). "Proof of our intense cooperation is the number of agreements with Singapore that we have just signed. These, I hope, will be the first in a long series of such agreements with ASEAN countries, and will eventually result in a region-to-region agreement."

At the Leaders' Meeting, alongside matters of trade, connectivity and transport, leaders addressed global peace and security challenges, including climate change, non-proliferation, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action – the Iran nuclear deal, counter-terrorism, maritime security and migration. They agreed to strengthen the EU-ASEAN relationship, in particular to address

global challenges and to work together to reinforce the rules-based international order and multilateralism. A factsheet on EU-ASEAN relations is available [online](#).

Further Information

[12th ASEM Summit website](#)

[12th ASEM Summit: Chair's Statement](#)

[Speech by President Jean-Claude Juncker at the plenary session of the 12th ASEM Summit](#)

[Remarks by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini at the press conference following the 12th ASEM Summit](#)

[ASEM Factsheet](#)

[ASEM Brochure](#)

[Connecting Europe and Asia – the EU's Strategy Factsheet](#)

[EU steps up its strategy for connecting Europe and Asia](#)

[Memo explaining the EU's approach to connecting Europe and Asia](#)

[Council Conclusions on "Connecting Europe and Asia – Building blocks for an EU Strategy"](#)

[Press release: EU and Singapore forge closer economic and political ties](#)

[Website on the EU-Singapore Free Trade and Investment Protection Agreements](#)

[Press release: Commission launches online tool to measure how well Europe and Asia are connected](#)

[Remarks by President Jean-Claude Juncker at the opening of the EU-ASEAN Leaders' Meeting](#)

[Factsheet on EU-ASEAN relations](#)

Main topics and media events 22 October – 4 November 2018

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