L	**BRIEFING** *Origin: DG TRADE*	o **Subject: Outlook of the future ASEAN-EU economic relations** o **Meeting with a delegation from EU-ASEAN Business Council** o **Date: 2 October 2017** o **Place: Brussels**

OBJECTIVE

- To exchange views with the EU-ASEAN Business Council representatives on the state of play and future of ASEAN economic integration and of the EU's trade negotiations with ASEAN and individual ASEAN Member States, also in preparation of the 2018 ASEAN Economic Ministers – EU Trade Commissioner Consultations chaired by Singapore.

SCENE SETTER

The meeting takes place at the request of the EU-ASEAN Business Council on the occasion of their annual visit to Brussels and the EU institutions (see programme in annex). They are keen to learn more about our progress on the ongoing trade negotiations with the Philippines and Indonesia, the ratification process of the FTAs with Singapore and Vietnam, and the prospects for relaunching the negotiations with Malaysia and Thailand, as well as progress on the region-to-region FTA (on the latter, they are supportive of the resumption of negotiations but mainly as a political signal of EU's engagement with the region). They may also want to ask about the implications of Brexit.

Out of scope

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SPEAKING POINTS/ KEY MESSAGES

EU ENGAGEMENT IN THE REGION

Out of scope

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VIETNAM

Out of scope

Out of scope

SINGAPORE

- Out of scope

INDONESIA

- We are currently negotiating a free trade agreement, and just finished the third round.

- The negotiations will aim at eliminating both tariff and non-tariff barriers. Otherwise a successful outcome on tariff liberalisation would be nullified if the long list of protectionist measures that Indonesia applies is not addressed. It will be a challenging path, though, and current conservative and protectionist stances do not help.

- Reportedly pressure exerted by part of the industry on the Government (industry confederation KADIN in particular) is not perceived as sufficient to persuade key sectors and administration to reform and liberalize the market.

- I would be grateful if you could share your perceptions with regard to the current situation and trends.

- It is our view that synergies with the local industry as well as input from the EU-ASEAN Business Council on factual and legal background of the existing non-tariff barriers as well as on their functioning are an important added-value to the EU negotiators' work.

- Equally, your views would be appreciated on where you see priority areas to work on with possible cooperation with Indonesia in order to prepare the country to best implement the agreement

MALAYSIA

Out of scope

PHILIPPINES

Out of scope

THAILAND

Out of scope

MYANMAR

Out of scope

Out of scope

CAMBODIA

Out of scope

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EU-ASEAN region-to-region FTA

Out of scope

DEFENSIVES ASEAN

Out of scope

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DEFENSIVES SINGAPORE / VIETNAM

Out of scope

Contact point: **Art 4.1(b)** **TRADE C2, ☎ Art 4.1(b) September 2017**

DEFENSIVES MALAYSIA

Out of scope

Contact point: Art 4.1(b) **TRADE C2, ☎** Art 4.1(b) **September 2017**

DEFENSIVES PHILIPPINES

Out of scope

Contact person: Art 4.1(b) **– DG TRADE C2 (** Art 4.1(b))

DEFENSIVES INDONESIA

Q: The EP report calls for very strong measures against palm oil. This is very sensitive in Indonesia (and Malaysia). How will you follow up?

- The EP resolution on palm oil and deforestation of rainforests represents a useful contribution to a broader debate on these issues.
- The resolution is not part of a legislative initiative. The Commission has issued a reply to this resolution, presenting its views on the matter and the main proposals put forward by the EP. An advance copy was shared with Indonesia and Malaysia informally back in July.
- The Commission is aware that palm oil requires a balanced approach, as it presents both opportunities and challenges and believes that it is essential to cooperate and support the efforts of producer countries to minimise deforestation and other negative impacts that palm oil cultivation can have, in order to achieve sustainable production of this commodity.
- In this context, we are interested in the efforts made by countries such as Indonesia to strengthen domestic certification schemes and look forward to further exchanging and working together on this matter.

Contact person: DG TRADE C2 Art 4.1(b)

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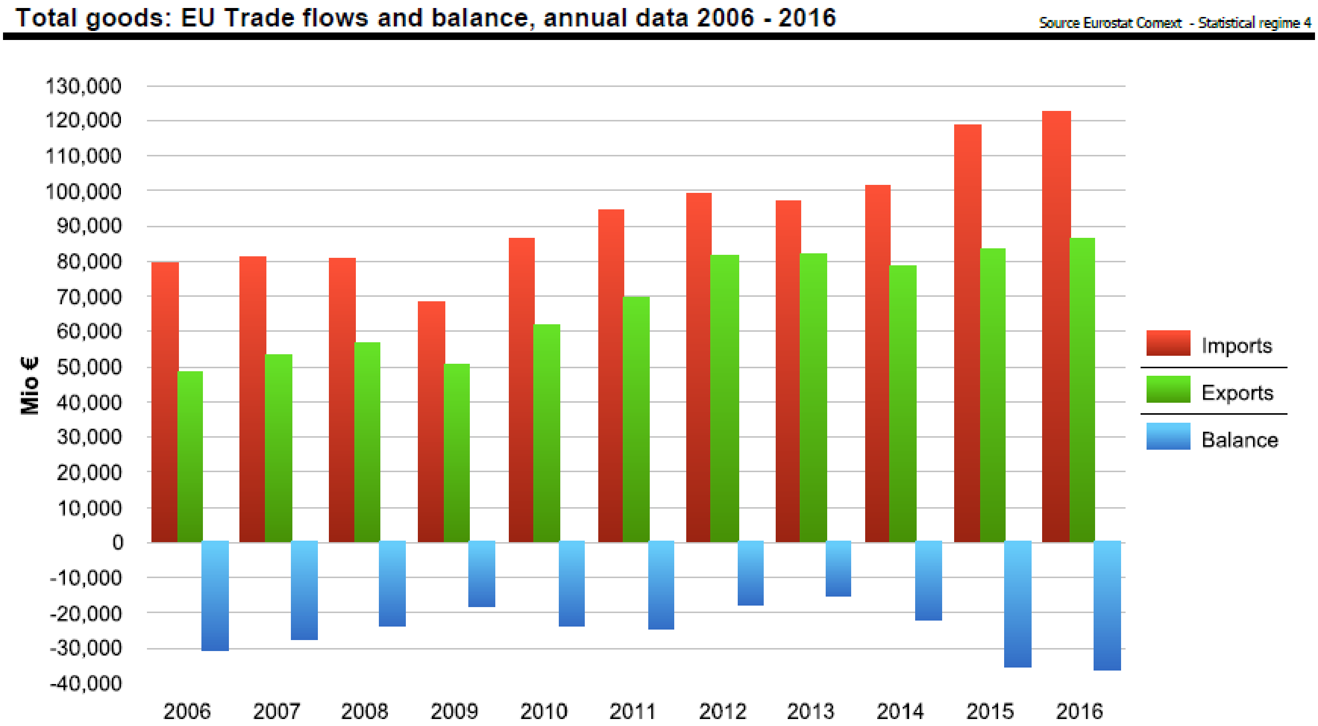
STATISTICS: EU-ASEAN TRADE AND FDI



EU-ASEAN Trade and investment relations (billion EUR - source Eurostat)						
	Trade in goods (2016)		Trade in services (2015)		FDI (2015)	
	EU import	EU Export	EU import	EU Export	FDI outward stock	FDI inward stock
Singapore	19.4	31.4	21.4	25.6	154.1	58.6
Vietnam	33.1	9.3	1.8	1.7	5.7	-0.2
Malaysia	22.2	13.2	3.3	4.4	19	10.7
Thailand	20.3	13.6	5.7	3.7	14.9	-0.3
Indonesia	14.6	10.5	2.1	4	30.4	-4
Philippines	6.6	6.2	2.2	2	6.1	0.7
Brunei	0.2	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Laos	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0
Cambodia	4.5	0.6	0.3	0.1	1.8	0
Myanmar	1	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4	-0.1
Total ASEAN	**122.1**	**85.5**	**37.3**	**42.1**	**232.8**	**65.5**

BACKGROUND EU ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL (EU-ABC)

Out of scope

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Expected attendance to the meeting:

[information to follow]

Programme of the EU-ABC visit to Brussels:

Out of scope

Annexes:

- **2017 Business Sentiment Survey**
- **Letter to Commissioner Malmström June 2017**
- **CVs of participants** *[information to follow]*

Contact person: DG TRADE C2 Filip Deraedt