

Consolidated STF-YLF Recommendations for the EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting Final version, 8 March 2018

Political-security Cooperation

- **Promote a rules-based order and strengthen security cooperation:** The EU and ASEAN should intensify their efforts to develop common positions with the view of strengthening a rules-based international order. This should include clear and strong joint standpoints on existing security challenges such as the situation in the South China Sea, on the Korean Peninsula, and the wider Indo-Pacific area. In order to deepen political-security cooperation better use should be made of existing dialogue mechanisms such as the ARF and CSCAP.
- **Enhance human security and share expertise on de-radicalisation:** The EU and ASEAN should focus more on enhancing human security, specifically the human security of vulnerable groups – such as refugees – and improve their integration into societies. In response to threats to social cohesion, the EU and ASEAN should exchange expertise to better address social drivers of radicalisation through education. Both regions can build on existing expertise in de-radicalisation programmes.
- **Strengthen responses to natural disasters:** Phenomena such as climate change will result in increasing natural disasters, which will put states under strain. ASEAN and the EU should share expertise on the prevention of, and response to, natural disasters.

Economic Cooperation

- **Continue FTA negotiations and develop effective communication strategies:** Free Trade negotiations in EU-ASEAN relations should continue and the expansion of bi-regional talks to third parties (e.g. China, Japan, Republic of Korea) should be considered. At the same time, the politicisation of FTA negotiations should be minimised. Effective and meaningful communication strategies of trade and economic activities should be developed, especially on the FTAs, to raise public awareness and to ensure transparency of policies. In particular, the EU and ASEAN should promote the key benefits of free trade in accessible media.
- **Accelerate negotiations for the Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement:** The EU and ASEAN should accelerate negotiations for the Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement. It should be ensured that the Agreement has spill-over effects benefitting job creation and environmental and labour standards.
- **Develop the digital infrastructure and address artificial intelligence:** In view of rapidly developing new technologies, the EU and ASEAN should create an inclusive, free, safe and effective digital infrastructure and develop strategies for cyber security to enhance personal data protection. Both the EU and ASEAN should also embark on initiatives to facilitate the development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) to create new employment opportunities.

People-to-People Contacts

- **Deepen bi-regional societal exchanges in sports, culture and academia:** To deepen knowledge about the two regions and promote mutual understanding between their peoples, the EU and ASEAN should support inter-regional sports events for high schools and universities; create a programme for the exchange of artists between the two regions to promote cultural exchange; and broaden opportunities under the Erasmus+ programme for academic collaboration between Europe and Southeast Asia.
- **Launch a bi-regional exchange programme for professionals:** The EU and ASEAN should launch a work, travel and professionals exchange programme to increase people-to-people contacts from a broad range of sectors. This could be supported by a visa facilitation programme for professionals, including trainees and interns