



PRESS RELEASE

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SINGAPORE DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT EU-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL AGM GALA DINNER AND CALLS FOR DEEPER TRADE AND INVESTMENT RELATIONS BETWEEN EU AND ASEAN

- **Singaporean Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, delivered the key note address following the annual EU-ASEAN Business Council AGM, stressing the importance of building trade and investment relations through Singapore’s ongoing Smart Nation Initiative.**
- **EU-ABC elected a new board and announced plans to hold a major ASEAN-EU Business Summit in Singapore in 2018, the year in which Singapore will next serve as Chair country of ASEAN**

Singapore, 28th June 2017– H.E. Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore and Minister-in-Charge of the Smart Nation Initiative of Singapore, called for forging ever closer commercial and investment ties between the people of the EU and Southeast Asia in his capacity as the honorary guest and keynote speaker at the EU-ASEAN Business Council’s AGM Gala Dinner last night.

“This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN, and the 40th anniversary of ASEAN–EU dialogue relations. While some parts of the world continue to face challenges in pursuing free and open trade and investment, ASEAN and the EU on the other hand have stood firm in our commitment to bring about development, prosperity, and benefits for our businesses and our people through regional integration. It is critical therefore that we succeed, because the proof of the pudding is in the eating. In this regard, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation for the work done by the EU-ASEAN Business Council,” said H.E. Dr Balakrishnan.

The EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) is the primary voice for European business within the ASEAN region. 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.

Speaking at the AGM Dinner, EU-ABC Chairman Donald Kanak said, “We are companies with long traditions, and immense passion for the region and its people. We view ourselves as part of the ASEAN family. The region’s success will be our success. I am confident that for European businesses operating in Southeast Asia, there is a bright future of more growth, more employment, and more investment, leading to more prosperity in the countries and communities in which we work.”

He noted that European business remains committed to the ASEAN region, as shown by the 2016 ASEAN-EU Business Sentiment Survey where an overwhelming majority of European companies reported that they expected to increase trade and investment in the region. The EUABC plans to repeat the survey in Q4 2017.



Mr Kanak continued: “We plan further studies and publications regarding trade and investment issues in the automotive industry, healthcare, the Digital Economy and IPR/Illicit Trade issues expected before the year end,” he added.

The EU-ASEAN Business Council Gala Dinner was also honoured by the presence of the EU Ambassador to ASEAN (H.E. Francisco Fontan Pardo), the EU Ambassador to Singapore (H.E. Dr Michael Pulch), several European Ambassadors and ASEAN Ambassadors to Singapore and members of the Diplomatic Corps following the Annual General Meeting. Following the EU-ASEAN Business Council’s AGM and election, its new Executive Board includes:

- Chairman: Mr Donald Kanak – Chairman, Eastspring Investments and Prudence Foundation
- Mr Theodoor Bakker – Board member of EuroCham Indonesia
- Mr Martin Hayes – President, South East Asia, Robert Bosch
- Mr Carsten Hess – Vice President & Head of Corporate Public Policy, Asia Pacific, Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa, Deutsche Post DHL Group
- Mr Guy Apovy –President, European Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Laos,

(Bios for each of the Board Members are attached.)

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Notes to editors: 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 the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. Independent of both bodies, 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. 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. 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.

The Executive Director of the EU-ASEAN Business Council is Mr Chris Humphrey, and its Chairman is Mr Donald Kanak. The Council is led by an elected Board consisting of corporate leaders representing a range of important industry sectors and representatives of the European Chambers of Commerce.

1. Profiles of the Executive Board



Mr. Donald Kanak, Chairman, EU-ASEAN Business Council; Chairman, Eastspring Investments

Don Kanak is the Chairman of Eastspring Investments, the Asia investment organisation of Prudential plc, which is one of Asia's leading retail asset managers with US\$146 billion in assets under management (as at 31 December 2016). Don is also Chairman of Prudence Foundation Ltd., the community engagement arm of Prudential in Asia.

Mr. Kanak is based in Hong Kong and has lived and worked in Asia for over 28 years. From 2008 to January 2016, he served as Chairman of Prudential Corporation Asia, and from 1992 to January 2006, he served in a number of senior positions at American International Group (AIG), ultimately as Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of AIG.

In 2011-12, Mr. Kanak chaired the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Insurance and Asset Management and is currently a member of its Council on Southeast Asia. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Kanak is a Senior Fellow of the Harvard Law School Program on International Financial Systems. He is a Trustee of WWF-Hong Kong, and serves on the National Council of WWF-U.S.

He holds a J.D. with honours from Harvard Law School and an M.Litt in Management Studies from University of Oxford (U.K.), and a B.A. with highest honors in economics from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and currently chairs the UNC Global Leadership Council.



Mr. Theodoor Bakker, Chamber Representative, EU-ASEAN Business Council; Partner, ABNR Law, Indonesia; Executive Board Member, European Chamber of Commerce, Indonesia

Mr. Theodoor Bakker, Chamber Representative, EU-ASEAN Business Council; Senior Foreign Counsel, Ali Budiardjo, Nugroho, Reksodiputro, Counselors At Law, Jakarta, Indonesia; Executive Board Member, European Chamber of Commerce, Indonesia.

Mr. Bakker graduated from Leiden University in the Netherlands, is admitted to the Amsterdam bar and is a registered Foreign Lawyer under the Indonesian Advocates Law. He has worked in Indonesia since 1984, over time building up extensive experience in foreign direct investment, project finance, including private power, aircraft finance, infrastructure development and general manufacturing investment. During the Asian financial crisis, he became involved in many aspects of restructuring and insolvency and has advised on foreign law issues of bankruptcy reform in Indonesia. His practice now also encompasses structured finance and mergers and acquisitions. He is an international commercial arbitrator registered at the National Indonesian Arbitration Institute and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre. He is a Fellow at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Mr. Bakker is on the Supervisory Board of the Indonesia Netherlands Association and a member of the Executive Board of EuroCham Indonesia. He has published various articles on insolvency and cross-border investment issues and teaches at the Faculty of Law of University of Indonesia and at the Indonesian Ministry of Law and Human Rights.



Mr. Martin Hayes, MNC Representative, EU-ASEAN Business Council, President, Robert Bosch SEA & Managing Director, Robert Bosch Singapore

Martin Hayes has been the president of Bosch for Southeast Asia, as well as the managing director of Bosch for Singapore since 1 January 2011. Up until October 2014, he was also the managing director of Bosch in Malaysia. Based in Singapore, Mr. Hayes is responsible for driving the Bosch business in the region.

Mr. Hayes was formerly Executive Vice President at Bosch Automotive Thailand Co. Ltd, Rayong, Thailand, responsible for automotive Original Equipment (OE) sales to customers in Southeast Asia and Australia. He was also a director of the Board since January 2006. He was instrumental in setting up the sales organisation across the region and for developing sales growth with OE manufacturers.



Born in Hornsea, the United Kingdom, Mr. Hayes went on to study Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Portsmouth University, where he obtained a 1st class honours degree.

Mr. Hayes joined the Bosch Group in Germany in August 1987 after his stints at Marconi Underwater Water Systems Ltd as a design engineer, and Factron Schlumberger as a manager for test and development. Since then, he has amassed a wealth of international management and leadership experience in several functions, including global responsibilities. Over the past 25 years, he has worked in Germany, the United Kingdom, and Thailand before arriving in Singapore.

Presently, Mr. Hayes is vice chairman of the EU-ASEAN Business Council, of which he is one of the founding members; a board member of the Singapore International Chamber of Commerce (SICC) and chairman of the chamber's ASEAN committee; as well as a board member of the Singapore-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (SGC) and chairman of its Automotive Committee Roundtable. He is also an active contributor to the Centaur Group of Senior Management Leadership Program, which is affiliated with the Cranfield University, UK. Mr. Hayes is a certified member of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, UK (IET).

Since assuming the role as president of Bosch for Southeast Asia, Mr. Hayes has been speaking at numerous conferences and high-profile events such as the [fourth Kuala Lumpur International Automotive Conference](#), the [FT-Nielsen ASEAN Cities Summit 2015](#), the [ASEAN and AEC 2015](#) conference in Berlin, and chairing the annual [ASEAN-EU Summit](#).



Mr. Carsten Hess, MNC Representative, EU-ASEAN Business Council; Vice President & Head of Corporate Public Policy, Asia Pacific, Eastern Europe, Middle East & Africa, Deutsche Post DHL Group

Mr. Carsten Hess is the Vice President and Head of Corporate Public Policy Asia Pacific & EEMEA of Deutsche Post DHL Group (DP DHL) and is based in Hong Kong. Mr. Hess has been working in Corporate Public Policy for DP DHL for over 13 years. Before he started to oversee the Asia Pacific region in 2013, he was the Head of European Corporate Representation of DP DHL, Brussels, Belgium.

Before Mr. Hess joined DP DHL, he has worked in MCI (formerly WorldCom) as the Director European Affairs, and General Electric International as Counsel European Affairs.

Mr. Hess was the Chairman of the Executive Committee for Alliance for European Logistics, a cross-sector industry logistics Roundtable in Brussels, Belgium from 2009-2013. He was a Member of the Board for International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation, a Brussels based NGO from 2006-2012. Mr. Hess studied Journalism and holds a Law degree major in European Law from University of Hamburg, Germany.



Mr. Guy Apovy, Chamber Representative, EU-ASEAN Business Council; President, European Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Laos; CEO, AGL Allianz subsidiary in Laos

Mr Guy Apovy is the CEO of Allianz General Laos (AGL), Allianz subsidiary in Laos since 2006. He has more than 30 years' experience in the Insurance Industry in Life and Property and Casualty with various distribution networks having worked as Regional Head of Sales in the South West of France before, acting as Head of Strategic Marketing Department and Knowledge Manager in Paris Head office.



Mr Apovy is currently based in Vientiane, Laos, and the President of the European Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Laos, since 2011. He was previously the President of the French Chamber of Commerce in Laos. Mr Apovy graduated from Cambridge University, has a MBA Degree in Sales & Marketing Management from ESSEC Business School, a DESS in International Transport from Paris University and a Master's degree in International Affairs.

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