



**PRESS RELEASE: EU ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL CONGRATULATES MYANMAR ON A SUCCESSFUL CHAIRMANSHIP OF ASEAN, WELCOMES PROGRESS TOWARDS THE LAUNCH OF THE ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IN 2015**

- **The EU-ASEAN Business Council congratulates Myanmar on its role as this year’s chairman of ASEAN, and notes the successful conclusion of the heads of government summit on November 13;**
- **ASEAN is an important region for European businesses and as the ASEAN Investment Report 2013-2014 highlights, the European Union is the largest source of foreign direct investment in ASEAN;**
- **This was an important year for ASEAN and under Myanmar’s chairmanship a number of significant developments have occurred – progress has been made towards the creation of the AEC next year and ASEAN has agreed a post-2015 vision ensuring that the regional integration agenda is sustained;**
- **The EU-ASEAN Business Council, as the voice of European business in the region, looks forward to continuing to work together with the government of Myanmar and to working closely with next year’s ASEAN chairman, Malaysia.**

Commenting on the conclusion of the ASEAN Heads of Government summit, EU-ABC Chairman François Guibert said:

“ASEAN is a hugely important region for European businesses – the European Union is now the largest source of foreign direct investment in ASEAN and is ASEAN’s second largest trading partner. This has been an important year for the region. Under Myanmar’s chairmanship we have seen significant progress made towards the launch of the ASEAN Economic Community next year. European businesses welcome the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision and look forward to working with partners across South East Asia as the region continues to integrate, grow and become a major driver of global economic growth”.

**ENDS.**



**Notes to Editors:**

***About the EU ASEAN Business Council***

Based in Singapore, the EU-ASEAN Business Council is a pan-ASEAN platform for European businesses to advocate for their trade and investment interests in South East Asia. Composed of senior business representatives, it allows its members to engage in high-level meetings with policy-makers in ASEAN countries, and with the ASEAN secretariat and EU institutions. It acts as an interface for

institutions in the European Union and in ASEAN to engage in a dialogue with businesses, including in the framework of the annual ASEAN-EU Business Summit.

The Council represents thousands of businesses through the membership of European Chambers of Commerce and the Council's corporate membership.

The Executive Director of the EU-ASEAN Business Council is Mr Chris Humphrey, and its Chairman is Mr François Guibert. The Council is led by an elected Board of corporate leaders representing a range of important industry sectors.

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