



EU-ASEAN RELATIONS



The European Union and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) are upgrading their relationship to a Strategic Partnership. This decision was taken by EU and ASEAN countries' Foreign Ministers at the EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on 21 January 2019. EU-ASEAN (consisting of [Brunei Darussalam](#), [Cambodia](#), [Indonesia](#), [Lao PDR](#), [Malaysia](#), [Myanmar \(Burma\)](#), [Philippines](#), [Singapore](#), [Thailand](#), and [Vietnam](#)) relations date back to 1977 when official "Dialogue Relations" began. On June 2015, the EU confirmed the adoption of a new strategy "[The EU and ASEAN: a partnership with a strategic purpose](#)". In August 2017 during the [EU-ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference](#), the [second EU-ASEAN Plan of Action \(2018-2022\)](#) was agreed.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT



The EU is ASEAN's **second largest trading partner**



In 2017, ASEAN exported almost **€135 billion** to the EU and the EU **€91 billion** to ASEAN



The EU has concluded negotiations for **Free Trade Agreements (FTA)** with [Singapore](#) and with [Vietnam](#) and is negotiating FTAs with other ASEAN countries ([Indonesia](#) and the [Philippines](#))



The EU is the **biggest provider of Foreign Direct Investment** in ASEAN



The EU has built an investment stock of over **€263 billion** in the region

In March 2017, the EU and ASEAN agreed to take new steps towards resuming talks for a **region-to-region agreement**

POLITICAL, SECURITY AND DEFENCE-RELATED COOPERATION



In July 2012, the EU acceded to ASEAN's **Treaty of Amity and Cooperation**. The EU and ASEAN work together to enhance crisis response and disaster management, including through EU support to the **ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre)**.

In October 2015, the first EU-ASEAN Policy Dialogue on Human Rights took place, supported through the Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (READI). A second edition of the Dialogue was held in the Philippines, in November 2017. The EU also organises with ASEAN High Level Dialogues on **Maritime Security** and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The EU has also co-chaired a number of initiatives in the **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)** framework, including **Meetings on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime**, the **Defence Officials Dialogue**.

INTEGRATION, CONNECTIVITY AND SECTORAL COOPERATION



The EU is a **major development partner** of ASEAN and the **biggest donor to the ASEAN Secretariat**, with around **€200 million of grant funding in support of ASEAN regional integration for the period 2014-2020**. This comes in addition to **€2 billion** of bilateral support to ASEAN Member States.



The €20 million Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI) supports EU-ASEAN cooperation and experience sharing, engaging policy-makers, civil society and the private sector across many areas, including circular and digital economy, fisheries, clean energy or road transport.



The EU supports with ARISE Plus programme (€85 million) **ASEAN economic and trade connectivity** in the areas of trade facilitation, customs and transport, quality standards in food safety and pharmaceuticals, civil aviation, intellectual property rights, economic and trade statistics and integration monitoring.



The EU is supporting in ASEAN countries sustainable use of peatlands and haze mitigation (€20 million), biodiversity conservation and management of protected areas (€10 million) and strengthening disaster management capacities through support to the **AHA Centre** (€10 million). A new programme on environmentally sustainable and climate resilient cities is also under preparation.



The **€10 million EU programme in support to higher education in the ASEAN region (SHARE)** contributes to strengthening the quality, competitiveness and internationalization of ASEAN higher education institutions and promotes student mobility. The programme is providing around **500 scholarships to support student and academic exchanges**.

MOBILITY, EDUCATION AND CULTURE

