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PRESS RELEASE: NEW EUROPEAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT TAKES OFFICE, EU-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT

- **The EU-ASEAN Business Council welcomes the appointment of a new European Council President, Donald Tusk, who takes office on December 1st for a period of three years.**
- **European businesses look forward to working with the new leadership in Europe, a priority of which is the conclusion of free trade agreements with many countries in ASEAN.**
- **ASEAN is an important trading partner for Europe. Europe is ASEAN's second largest bilateral trading partner and EU businesses are the largest source of FDI into ASEAN.**

The EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) would like to congratulate Donald Tusk on his appointment as the President of the European Council and looks forward to working with the EU authorities on developing and maintaining the already strong trading and commercial relationship between ASEAN and the EU.

Commenting on the appointment of a new European Council President, EU-ABC Executive Director Chris Humphrey said:

“The EU-ASEAN relationship is a strong and important one and the Council looks forward to working with Donald Tusk in further developing the relationship between our two important regions. A key priority of the new leadership in Europe will be developing Europe's trading and commercial links with the rest of the world. ASEAN is a very important region for European businesses. Europe is ASEAN's second largest trading partner and ASEAN's largest source of FDI. We look forward to taking our commercial relationship to an even higher level under the leadership of Donald Tusk”.

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Notes to editors:

1. 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 from large European multinational corporations and all of the European Chambers of Commerce in South East Asia, 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 own direct MNC 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 consisting of corporate leaders representing a range of important industry sectors and representatives of the European Chambers of Commerce.

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