**EU-ABC General News Updates** 

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



## Dear All,

I want to wish all of you a Happy 2022 - a year of renewed optimism and recovery from the challenges of COVID-19 that have shaped the past two years. I am grateful for the determination shown by our members and the Council team in overcoming the difficulties imposed by the pandemic. Your creativity, perseverance and participation made 2021 a record year in terms of the Council's advocacy work for our members, publications, Ministerial meetings and events. The Council is planning an even busier and more fulfilling agenda for 2022.

For 2022, we will have an increased focus on sustainability linked issues – which for us includes not only preserving the natural environment and combatting climate change, but also pursuing sustainable inclusive growth in its broadest sense.

The Team at the Council is working on a programme of events and advocacy initiatives that will showcase the valuable contribution that European businesses make to the continued sustainable development of the ASEAN region, advancing improvements in the regional and global trade and investment environment, and leveraging Europe's support for ASEAN to implement its Comprehensive Recovery Framework from the pandemic with sustainability as a core principle.

We will be working on a number of key issues which include, though by no means limited to, Energy Transition, Greening of Supply Chains, healthcare and wellbeing, Circular Economy, provision and supply of safe and nutritious food, while continuing our work on trade facilitation, improving market access, and boosting the development of the digital economy.

We have ambitious plans for mission trips to a number of ASEAN member states, for a physical Business Summit in Cambodia in the Autumn, and for a business event in Brussels in support of the planned Commemorative ASEAN-EU Summit later in the year to celebrate 45 years of EU-ASEAN relations. Until physical mission trips and conferences are feasible, we will conduct ministerial meetings virtually and hold online events and webinars aligned with the interests of our members.

As ever, the Council is here to support the interests of its members and to improve the conditions for trade and investment for the sectors in which our members engage. The Team at the EU-ABC, and its Executive Board, encourage each of you to reach out and keep us abreast of concerns, questions and plans so that we can best support your endeavours.

With kind regards and best wishes for the year ahead,

Donald P. Kanak Chairman

**UPCOMING WEBINAR** 



Save-the-date, more details to follow!

## **EU-ABC MEMBERS**



Interested in joining the EU-ABC? Contact us at <a href="mailto:chris.humphrey@eu-asean.eu">chris.humphrey@eu-asean.eu</a> or <a href="mailto:liyana.othman@eu-asean.eu">liyana.othman@eu-asean.eu</a> for more details on membership.













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