**PRESS RELEASE**

**EU-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL HOLDS 6th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTED**

**MINISTER S ISWARAN GIVES KEY NOTE ADDRESS AT AGM GALA DINNER**

* **EU-ASEAN Business Council holds its 6th Annual General Meeting in Singapore**
* **New and expanded Executive Board elected. Federico Donato, President of EuroCham Singapore, Wichard von Harrach, Vice-President of EuroCham Indonesia, and Trai-Ukos Segsarn, Secretary General of Michelin for Southeast Asia, all join the Board.**
* **Singapore’s Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations, S.Iswaran, gives key note address at the AGM Gala Dinner**

**Singapore, 28th June 2019** – The EU-ASEAN Business Council, the leading regional body for European Businesses in South East Asia, held its 6th Annual General Meeting in Singapore today. During the course of the formal meeting, the members of the EU-ABC elected a new Executive Board for a 2 year term. Donald Kanak remains as Chairman for a further year.

**The Formal Meeting was followed by a Gala Dinner which was attended by around 170 people including representatives of the European and ASEAN Diplomatic Corps in Singapore, leading European Businessmen in Southeast Asia, and senior government officials and other dignitaries from across ASEAN.**

**Minister S. Iswaran, Singapore’s Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations, was the guest of honour at the dinner and gave a key note address on trade relations between the EU and ASEAN.**

Addressing the Gala Dinner, Mr Donald Kanak said: “Both ASEAN and the EU keenly support the multi-lateral rules-based trading system, which has underpinned continued economic growth and stability for decades. But we are in a volatile world; the existing world economic order and trade regimes are under stress and need adjustment to cope with current economic and technological realities and politics in many places that is skeptical of the benefits of globalisation. At EU-ABC, we believe it is crucial that both businesses and Governments work ever harder and more collaboratively to keep markets open, remove barriers and improve the environment for trade, investments and employment. That means collaboration across a wide range of industries as well as cross-sector issues such as sustainability, taxation or anti-illicit trade.”

He went on to say: “The EU-ABC looks forward to the full implementation of the EU-Singapore FTA and the signing of the EU-Vietnam FTA. These two top-level agreements should form the cornerstones of the future EU-ASEAN trade and investment relationship – a relation where the EU remains ASEAN’s second largest trading partner and, by some distance, its largest source of foreign direct investment.”

**END**

**Notes to editors:**

**About the EU-ASEAN Business Council**

The EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) is the recognised voice for European business within the ASEAN region. It is recognised both by the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat, recently being accredited as an Entity associated with ASEAN under Annex 2 of the ASEAN Charter. 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.

As such, 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 by sharing information and ideas with policy and decision makers and 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, representing a diverse range of European industries cutting across almost every commercial sphere from car manufacturing through to financial services and including FMCG and high-end electronics and communications. Our members share a common aim to enhance trade, commerce and investment between Europe and ASEAN.

**About the EU-ASEAN Business Council Executive Board**

**The EU-ABC has just elected a new Executive Board for a two-year term. Details of the new Board are below. Donald Kanak will continue to serve as Chairman of the EU-ABC for a further 12 months.**

**Chairman:**

* ***Donald Kanak – Chairman of Eastspring Investments & Prudence Foundation***

**Executive Board Members:**

* ***Martin Hayes - President, Southeast Asia, Robert Bosch (EU-ABC Vice Chairman)***
* ***Johan de Villiers – Managing Director, Southeast Asia, ABB (EU-ABC Treasurer)***
* ***Trai-Ukos Segsarn – Secretary General, South & Southeast Asia and Oceania, Michelin***
* ***Guy Apovy – Board Member, European Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Lao PDR (EU-ABC Secretary)***
* ***Wichard von Harrach – Vice President, EuroCham Indonesia***
* ***Federico Donato – President, EuroCham Singapore***

***Media Contacts***

Brenda Lee, External Communications & Events Manager, EU-ASEAN Business Council, E-Mail: brenda.lee@eu-asean.eu. Tel: +65 9880 2261