



We are nearing the close of the year and it is once again time to provide you with some of the key highlights from the EU-ASEAN Business Council in November ***and*** December; and get ready, it's plenty!

### **Activities in November**

The Council started November by hosting [The Future of Agriculture in ASEAN: Lessons from Sri Lanka](#) which underscored the lessons that ASEAN can draw from Sri Lanka in the

appropriate use of fertilisers while avoiding running the risk of a food crisis. We also concluded our 2022 members-only briefing by turning our lens to Thailand. Timely, as the Council sets off to the Land of Smiles – Bangkok, Thailand – for our final Mission Trip of the year with a series of high-level meetings with various Ministries in Thailand on the last week of November.

The Council landed in Bangkok for our Mission Trip where we were honoured to have various meetings – Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Public Health, Agriculture, Energy, Finance, Transport, Digital Economy & Society, Industry, Board of Investment, and the Bank of Thailand. It is heartening to hear how Thailand is not slowing gearing up after APEC and continues looking for avenues to attract more talent and foreign investment into the country.

Alongside the Mission Trip, the Council held a one-day health workshop which brought together industry and healthcare experts to identify areas of partnership where Thailand can continue to enhance health inclusivity. The discussion ranged from topics such as the need to continue implementing outreach programmes and initiatives to care for the needs of the most vulnerable groups within the Thai communities; and the importance of diagnostics adoption to aid Thailand in battling HIV and Hepatitis.

November also saw us participate in meetings with MEPs visiting from Brussels, attend the ASEAN Coordinating Committee for Customs, and participate in the ASEAN Business Investment Summit.

### **C-Suite Luncheon & 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Business Summit in December**



The EU-ASEAN Business Council held its 10th ASEAN-EU Business Summit – for the first time – in Brussels, together with a C-Suite Luncheon between European Business Leaders and Heads of Government and Senior Ministers from across the ASEAN region. The Luncheon was attended by,

amongst others, Prime Minister Prayut of Thailand, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh of Vietnam. President Marcos Jr of the Philippines, EVP Valdis Dombrovskis and Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen from the European Commission. This Summit and Luncheon were held a day before leaders from both regions met for the political EU-ASEAN Summit. Key business and political leaders from both regions attended and spoke at the Business Summit.

ASEAN is one of the few bright spots globally for investment, and at the Council (EU-ABC), we want to continue boosting relations and deepening the alignment that the EU and ASEAN already have on a great number of topics. Mirroring the words of our Chairman, Martin Hayes at his opening speech for the event, “we want to ensure a better, more just, sustainable future.”

Key messages that echoed throughout the business summit was the need for ASEAN member states to face imminent economic challenges collectively and strengthen resiliency by fostering close cooperation between the two regions; and through conducting a balancing act between achieving sustainability and continuous viability of trade between EU and ASEAN. Work still needs to be done on this front and the EU-ABC will continue to, as Philippine President H.E. Ferdinand Marcos JR concludes, to play “a pivotal role for cooperation” for both regions.

Before the Council closes this chapter on the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Business Summit, we would like to express many thanks to our sponsors and all of the ASEAN Embassies in Brussels for the great collaboration and assistance in helping us pull this marvellous event together; and also to our Executive Board Members for your support.

### **Events in 2023**

Upcoming in January, the Council, along with EuroCham Myanmar, will be hosting a webinar on 19<sup>th</sup> January to provide you updates on Myanmar. More information on that to come in the coming weeks.

Our first Mission Trip in 2023 will see us flying off to Vietnam in February. Registration for Vietnam Mission Trip has opened and you can sign up for it [here](#).

### **Final Words of 2022**

Finally, the office will be officially closed from 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 until 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023. To all those who celebrate, the Council wishes you a joyful Christmas and a great New Year. Thank you for all the support in 2022 and we will see you again in 2023!