

Notes from the ED – August 2023

August has come and gone in a flash. The European Summer is over, but there was no vacation for the team at the Business Council. Another very busy month has flown by. I covered off our recording break Business Mission to Indonesia at the beginning of August in my last *Notes from the ED*, so will not repeat myself here, other than to say 17 Ministerial level meetings over the course of 3 days was some feat!

The rest of the month saw a number of high profile activities. I met with the European Parliament's Delegation for Southeast Asia during their fact-finding visit to Indonesia, having an excellent exchange on the state of play on EU-ASEAN relations in general, and on trade issues in particular. In conjunction with Vriens & Partners, we also organised a lunch briefing on Cambodia, with a look at the formation of the new Government there and how policy direction may change going forward. On that note, we have our Business Mission to Cambodia coming up in October, giving our members an invaluable opportunity to the new batch of Ministers in person. You can register for that [here](#).

The middle of the month saw the Council have its annual consultation meeting with the ASEAN Economic Ministers, alongside the annual AEM-EU Consultation Meeting. We presented on the need for a re-invigoration of the ASEAN economic integration initiative, and the need for the region to do more on the greening of supply chains and energy transition. We also used the meeting to discuss the impact of various sustainability initiatives on businesses everywhere, and on how the Council intends to work closely with ASEAN on further developments in this area and on trade facilitation issues. You can read the Joint Media Statement from the AEM-EU Consultation Meeting [here](#). We will be liaising closely with the European Commission on how the ASEAN-EU Joint Working Group will be taking things forward on the areas of digital economy, green technologies and services, and supply chain resilience.

On the sidelines of the AEM we also held bilateral discussions with Lao PDR (focussing mainly on their forthcoming Chairmanship of ASEAN), Timor Leste, Singapore, the Philippines and the ASEAN Secretary-General.

The month was closed out with an excellent joint session with EuroCham Myanmar on the current business environment in the country given the ongoing situation there.

Looking ahead, September starts with a very busy week of events during the forthcoming ASEAN Summit. Our Chairman, Jens Ruebber, will be speaking at the ASEAN Business Investment Summit and I will be moderating a panel at the ASEAN Investment Forum which happens in parallel. We also have a range of members speaking at the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum. This ensures that the voice of European business will be heard throughout the week across a number of different events.

Straight from a week in Jakarta we will be heading to Kuala Lumpur for our Malaysia Business Mission where will be meeting various Ministries and Agencies, and also running the latest in our series of [Health Roadshows](#), and our final Value of Diagnostics workshop. And at the end of September there is the ASEAN-Cambodia Summit being organised by EuroCham Cambodia with the support of the Council. More info on that can be found [here](#).

Finally, looking slightly further ahead, we will have an excellently timed Business Mission to Thailand from 14 to 16 November, just in time to meet the newly minted government. [Registrations](#) are open for this now. And in December, the Council will be off to brave the cold of winter in Brussels for meeting with various European institutions. More details on that to follow.

As ever, the team and myself are here to serve our Members, so please do let us know where you would like us to focus more going forward as we are now working on plans for 2024.