
Asia-Europe Vision Group (AEVG)

Concept

I. Background

1. H.E. President Kim Young Sam of the Republic of Korea proposed an Asia-Europe Vision Group in the first ASEM held in Bangkok in March 1996. The first ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Singapore in February 1997 supported the establishment of the Asia-Europe Vision Group at ASEM II in 1998 to provide ideas for the development of the ASEM process into the next century.
2. As ASEM is aimed at developing a comprehensive partnership between Asia and Europe, it would be beneficial for ASEM at this initial stage to pool the wisdom of those outside the government who could offer forward-looking and constructive ideas for its future progress.

II. Objectives

3. In order to fully realize the potential for enhanced cooperation between Asia and Europe, ASEM should take a forward-looking approach and develop a medium - to long-term vision which would help guide the future direction of the ASEM process into the 21st century.
4. To this end, it would be useful that an ad hoc Vision Group be established, which would review the present state of Asia-Europe relations and make recommendations on measures that would advance a comprehensive Asia-Europe Partnership agreed upon by the Leaders in Bangkok in March 1996.
5. A Vision Group could consider and assess the likely shape of the ASEM partnership in the medium - to long-term and identify policy priorities and issues to be addressed for the future development of the ASEM process.
6. Driven by a non-governmental approach, this Vision Group could provide

valuable and objective perspective and input in setting the future course of Asia-Europe cooperation.

III. Terms of Reference

7. The terms of reference of the Vision Group are as follows:
 - to examine the full scope of current Asia-Europe relations:
 - identify both the close ties and the weak links between the continents;
 - consider the causes of the present state of affairs.
 - to develop a medium - to long-term vision for enhanced cooperation between Asia and Europe:
 - reflect on how the recent trends of globalization and regionalism are likely to affect the future Asia-Europe relations;
 - seek further exploitation of the close ties between Asia and Europe, and propose ways of narrowing gaps and building bridges between the continents;
 - envisage the likely shape of the ASEM process in the first decade of the 21st century and beyond, and examine how ASEM can evolve.
 - to identify and recommend practical measures for advancing the development of ASEM through cooperation in the political, economic, cultural and other spheres:
 - propose policy priorities and avoid duplication of existing and new practical measures for the long-term success of the ASEM process.
8. While avoiding duplication with existing projects on Asia-Europe cooperation under the ASEM umbrella, the Vision Group may take into account the outcomes of other non-governmental follow-up actions in fulfilling the above-mentioned terms of reference.

IV. Composition and Organization

9. Each ASEM partner may appoint a member to the Vision Group. The members should participate in the Group in their individual capacity rather than as representatives of their particular country or region. The Vision Group members would be of high calibre and international repute such as former government ministers, renowned academics, and prominent figures in the mass media and business circles.
10. The Vision Group should be allowed to determine its own organizational and procedural matters.
11. A member of the Vision Group will be elected as Chair in the first meeting and his or her government will provide the secretariat services for the Vision Group

including :

- coordinating administrative arrangements for meetings;
 - providing administrative support including the publication of reports for the Vision Group members between meetings and other activities as directed by the Chair.
12. The Vision Group may elect a Vice Chair on the condition that if the Chair is an Asian, then the Vice Chair shall be a European, and vice versa.
 13. Reports to the Ministers and the Leaders and other substantive decisions will be adopted on the basis of consensus by the participating members.
 14. The Chair will submit progress reports to Senior Officials' Meetings in order to keep Senior Officials informed of the progress in the activities and other substantial developments of the Vision Group.
 15. It is proposed that the meeting of the Vision Group be held alternatively in Asia and Europe. The host country will provide logistic support including the meeting venue and functions. Korea is considering hosting the first meeting.
 16. While the expenditure directly associated with the meetings will be covered by the host country, other expenses including travel and accommodation costs should be borne by the participants themselves.

V. Time Frame

17. The Vision Group will be organized before the end of 1997 with a view to being launched at ASEM II in London, UK. The work of the Vision Group will be completed before it reports to Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 1999.
18. The report of the Vision Group will be submitted to the Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 1999 and to ASEM III in 2000 along with the Ministers' views on its recommendations. Its recommendations relating to cooperation in economic and financial areas will be reported as appropriate to the other relevant Ministers' Meetings.

Asia-Europe Vision Group (AEVG)

Members

Austria	Dr Helmut Sohmen President, World Wide Shipping Agency, Hong-Kong
Belgium	Mr Hugo Vandamme President, Barco Industries
Brunei Darussalam	Major-General Pehin Dato Haji Mohammed Ex-Royal Brunei Armed Forces, ex-Ambassador in Cairo and Washington
China	Mr Liu Shan President, Foreign Services College
Denmark	Mr Juergen Oestroem Moller Ambassador to Singapore
Finland	Mr Christoffer Taxell CEO, Partek Corporation
France	M. Francois-Xavier Ortoli Ex-President of the European Commission
Germany	Professor Dr Heinz Riesenhuber Member of the Federal Parliament and former Minister of Science and Technology
Greece	Profesor Constantinos Vergopoulos Professor of Political Economy, University of Athens

Indonesia	Professor Dr Suhadi Mangkusuwondo Professor of economics, University of Indonesia Vice-Chairman, Trade and Management Development Institute
Ireland	Mr Albert Reynolds Ex-Prime Minister
Italy	Mr Tommaso Padoa Schioppa Chairman, Stock Exchange Control Committee
Japan	Professor Akihiko Tanaka Associate Professor of International Politics, University of Tokyo
Korea	Mr Lee Hong-Koo Ex Prime-Minister
Luxembourg	Mr Robert Arendahl Vice-President, Cargolux International
Malaysia	Datuk Hassan Harun Chairman, KUB Malaysia
Netherlands	Mr Ruud Lubbers Ex Prime-Minister
Philippines	Mr Jaime Laya Head of National Commission on Culture and Arts
Portugal	Mr Bernardino Gomes President of the Portuguese Atlantic Committee since 1996
Singapore	Dr Lee Tsao Yuan Director, Institute of Policy Studies
Spain	Mr Alberto Recarte Economic Adviser to the President
Sweden	Mr Michael Sohlman Director, Nobel Foundation
Thailand	Mr Chatumongol Sonakul Ex Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance
United Kingdom	Sir John Boyd Master, Churchill College

Viet Nam

Professor Nguyen Quant Thai

Vice-President, Institute of National Development Strategy

**European
Commission**

Mr Percy Barnevik

Chairman, ABB