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6th Asia-Europe Meeting

I SUMMARY AND EVALUATION

The sixth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 6) was held in Finland on 10-11 September 2006, bringing together Heads of State and Government of 13 Asian and 25 European states and the President of the European Commission. Overall, more than 3,500 persons participated in the Summit and its side events, including 1,500 delegates, approximately 1,050 journalists and over 1,000 participants at the various side events. The venue for the Summit was the Helsinki Fair Centre (Messukeskus).

The Helsinki Summit was a special milestone for Asia-Europe relations as it celebrated the 10th anniversary of the ASEM cooperation process. The meeting provided an ideal setting to take stock of the experiences of the first decade of ASEM, to reflect on the present, and to discuss the visions for further enhancing the cooperation. The overarching theme of the Summit was "10 Years of ASEM: Global Challenges - Joint Responses", reflecting ASEM partners' common objectives as well as developments due to rapid globalisation.

The principal results of the Summit can be summarised in the following points:

- Well-focussed and substantive Summit agenda and a very high level of attendance.
- Landmark Declaration on Climate Change, contributing specifically to the multilateral efforts to address climate change and meet present and future commitments under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol,
- Political decision on the enlargement of ASEM, welcoming Bulgaria and Romania on the European side and India, Pakistan, Mongolia and the ASEAN Secretariat on the Asian side to participate in the ASEM process, as from the time of completion of the respective internal procedures.
- Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM, outlining a set of guiding principles and recommendations, including key areas of dialogue and cooperation, to lead ASEM into its second decade.
- Enhanced social dimension and attention to labour issues, building on the results of the first ASEM Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting held in Germany prior to the Summit.
- Launch of the ASEM Virtual Secretariat as a new coordination mechanism.
- Strengthened links and contacts between different stakeholders by supporting and utilising events organised in parallel and prior to the Summit and by conveying their messages to the Summit.



The preparations for ASEM 6 started soon after ASEM 5 in Hanoi. Responding to the request by the Leaders in ASEM 5, the 7th Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) in Kyoto in May 2005 identified three areas of substantive cooperation to be discussed in ASEM 6: 1) strengthening multilateralism and addressing security threats; (2) sustainable development including environment and energy security; and (3) dialogue among cultures and civilisations. The Rotterdam High Level Meeting in September 2005 added a fourth key area of cooperation, competitiveness and globalisation. The ASEM Senior Officials further discussed the Summit agenda in their meetings in London in November 2005, Vienna in March 2006 and Hämeenlinna in June 2006. The first working paper (referred to as a concept paper) sketching the substance of the Summit was presented by Finland to the partners at the London SOM.

Between the Hanoi and Helsinki Summits, several ministerial meetings took forward and developed the agenda further in their respective fields of expertise. The Culture Ministers' Meeting was held in Paris in June 2005, while the Finance Ministers met in Tianjin in June 2005 and in Vienna in April 2006. Furthermore, for the first time within the ASEM framework, the Labour and Employment Ministers gathered in Potsdam in September 2006.

Throughout the preparations the main objective was to define a well-focussed agenda and find areas of cooperation where the partners felt that the ASEM framework could produce significant value-added. Another essential aim was to enhance transparency and open communication between all ASEM partners, and thereby to engage the partners as fully as possible in the preparation process. Moreover, Finland introduced some new elements regarding the working methods of the Summit with the dual goal of ensuring open and free discussion as well as facilitating and encouraging a substantive and focussed dialogue.

In addition to the opening and closing ceremonies, the Summit was based on four closed plenary sessions, one working lunch and a working dinner in retreat format, all chaired by the Prime Minister of Finland, Mr. Matti Vanhanen. The President of Finland, Ms. Tarja Halonen, hosted the retreat dinner at the Presidential Palace and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Erkki Tuomioja, offered an informal dinner at the Government Banquet Hall to his ministerial colleagues as well as to the other accompanying ministers.

On Sunday 10 September Prime Minister Vanhanen welcomed the leaders to the 6th ASEM Summit at the official Opening Ceremony, which also celebrated the 10th anniversary of the ASEM process. At the first closed session the leaders concentrated on political issues, including multilateralism, international terrorism

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and communicable diseases. At the retreat dinner on Sunday evening the discussion focussed on regional issues, such as regional integration in Asia and Europe, the Korean peninsula and the situation in the Middle East.

The first session on Monday morning was devoted to intercultural and inter-faith dialogue and educational issues. At the working lunch the Leaders engaged in a discussion on questions related to sustainable development, with a special focus on climate change and energy security. The topic of the third closed session was economic cooperation and the opportunities and challenges of globalisation. At the fourth and final session on the future of ASEM the Leaders took the decision on ASEM's enlargement. The Summit was concluded by the official closing ceremony and the final press conference.

The informal atmosphere of ASEM 6 contributed to a substantial and genuine dialogue among the Heads of State and Government. The discussion in each plenary session was introduced by "lead speeches", intended to set the tone for a well-focussed discussion, leaving ample time for a free-flowing and spontaneous exchange of views. All partners expressed their satisfaction with this renewed working method. Furthermore, as the sessions took forward and concentrated on a few jointly agreed priority areas containing real value-added, the Summit was instrumental in enhancing the continuity and dynamism of ASEM and in laying the foundations for the second successful decade of ASEM cooperation.



II ROAD MAP: ASEM 5 TO ASEM 6

The Summit in Hanoi had tasked the Senior Officials to elaborate on areas of substantive cooperation and to convey their ideas for the consideration of the Kyoto Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM). Building on these proposals, the Kyoto FMM in May 2005 defined three key areas of cooperation for the discussion at ASEM 6, providing crucial landmarks for the preparation of the Summit agenda. Moreover, ASEM 5 had given a mandate to consider the issue of ASEM's future enlargement as well as to develop further the coordination and management mechanism of ASEM. The work towards these goals was taken forward in the Kyoto FMM and the Senior Officials' Meetings (SOMs) as well as other preparatory meetings. The different ministerial meetings organised between the Hanoi and Helsinki Summits contributed significantly to the Summit's substance.

Throughout the preparations, the ASEM 6 Secretariat of the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs was in close contact with the Asian and European partner countries, in particular with the four coordinators (European Commission, the rotating EU Presidency, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea). On the EU side, a lot of preparatory work was done in the relevant Council working group (COASI) during the Austrian EU Presidency.

Preparing the summit: key events

Coordinators' meeting in Bali, Indonesia, 22 December 2004

The ASEM Coordinators' meeting in Bali in December 2004 was devoted to the follow-up of the Hanoi Summit and to the initiation of the preparations for the Kyoto Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The partners also decided to convene an informal ASEM Working Group to elaborate on the tasks given by ASEM 5, in particular on the "Future of ASEM".

Working Group in Brussels, Belgium, 1 February 2005

An open-ended Working Group meeting, co-chaired by the then EU Presidency, Luxembourg, and by the Asian co-ordinators was organised in Brussels at the beginning of February 2005 with a view to engaging partners in a brainstorming session on the future of ASEM. The meeting discussed the priority areas of substantial cooperation, options to improve the efficiency of the institutional mechanisms and the functioning of ASEM, as well as issues relating to the possible future enlargement of ASEM.

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Senior Officials' Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, 11-12 March 2005

The conclusions of the Working Group meeting in Brussels were presented to the Senior Officials who gathered in Jakarta in March 2005 under the Japanese chairmanship in order to prepare for the Kyoto Foreign Ministers' Meeting. In order to revitalise and give more substance to the cooperation process it was recommended that a small number of priority areas of common interest and concern should be set, providing real value-added and an appropriate balance between dialogue and concrete results. The meeting also considered ways of improving coordination among ASEM partners and the implications of ASEM's possible enlargement.

Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kyoto, Japan, 6-7 May 2005

The 7th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kyoto in May 2005 played a crucial role in the preparation process towards ASEM 6 by further focussing the ASEM agenda on the basis of the policy lines set out by the Hanoi declaration. The meeting resulted in the definition of three broad priority areas of cooperation for ASEM 6: (1) strengthening multilateralism and addressing security threats; (2) sustainable development including environment and energy security; and (3) dialogue among cultures and civilisations. The lunch discussion was devoted to "Future of ASEM", the Ministers decided, *inter alia*, on the setting up of a virtual secretariat after discussing the improvement of ASEM institutional mechanisms. Regarding the enlargement of ASEM, the Ministers tasked the Senior Officials to continue their discussions and make recommendations to allow the Leaders to take a decision at ASEM 6. With respect to the discussion on the Future of ASEM, the Ministers also welcomed and endorsed the Finnish-Japanese joint initiative to commission a critical review of the first ten years of ASEM as an input to ASEM 6. The research project was launched in a symposium in Helsinki in September 2005 and followed by another symposium in December 2005 in Tokyo.

High-level Meeting in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 16-17 September 2005

A High-level Meeting was held in the framework of the ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting in September 2005 in Rotterdam. The meeting led to agreement to add competitiveness and globalisation as a fourth priority area of ASEM 6 in addition to the areas of substantive cooperation defined at the Kyoto FMM.



Senior Officials' Meeting in London, United Kingdom, 29-30 November 2005

On the basis of the recommendations by the Kyoto FMM and the Rotterdam High-level Meeting Finland presented the first paper drawing the broad lines for the Summit agenda at the SOM in London in November 2005, which was hosted by the UK EU Presidency. This Concept Paper, which would be used as a basis for Summit preparations and which would evolve into an indicative list of topics for ASEM 6, was thoroughly discussed among the partners. In addition to ASEM's traditional pillar structure, the Concept Paper emphasised also the cross-pillar approach in a range of issues.

Coordinators' Meeting in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 20-21 January 2006

The Coordinators' Meeting in Jeju in January 2006, which was held in the margins of the Asian SOM concentrated on partners views and expectations concerning the broad lines presented in the Concept Paper, including the issue of working methods. Moreover, the Finnish ASEM 6 Secretariat engaged in bilateral dialogues with Asian partners on these questions during January 2006.

Senior Officials' Meeting in Vienna, Austria, 8-9 March 2006

The final version of the Concept Paper was presented during the Austrian EU Presidency at the Vienna SOM in March 2006. With regard to the final Summit documents, Finland proposed that in addition to the Chairman's Statement two declarations would be issued, one concentrating on climate change and another on the future of ASEM. The joint conclusions of the Asian and European studies on the Future of ASEM were conveyed to the Senior Officials, who welcomed them as a basis for further discussion aiming at a political declaration to be adopted in Helsinki.

Prime Minister Vanhanen's letters to his ASEM Colleagues

The first invitation letter of the Finnish Prime Minister to his ASEM colleagues, containing an overview of the Summit theme and broad topics, was sent on 8 May 2006. The letter was followed by a second invitation letter on 19 July, giving a more detailed account of the Summit agenda and programme.

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Working Group Meeting in Singapore, 22 May 2006

With the Summit only a couple of months away, another open-ended Working Group meeting was organised in Singapore on 22 May, preceded by another coordinators meeting. The first "list of topics", drafts of the Chairman's Statement and the Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM were presented to the partners in Singapore, and a broad understanding on the issues to be included in these documents was reached. The Working Group also decided on the establishment of a climate change experts' network to prepare the ASEM 6 Declaration on Climate Change.

Senior Officials' Meeting in Hämeenlinna, Finland, 18-19 June 2006

The SOM in Hämeenlinna in June 2006 was the last gathering of all 39 ASEM partners before the Summit week. Therefore, the meeting was devoted to going through all the preparations, and in particular the Summit documents. A broad consensus was reached among the partners on the structure and the contents of the Chairman's Statement, and on the basis of the discussion Finland produced a first draft of the Chairman's Statement, which was distributed to the partners in July. Furthermore, the partners reached consensus on the form and content of the draft Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM and its Annex on Working Methods and Institutional Mechanisms, adopting the document on a preliminary basis. The ASEM 6 Declaration on Climate Change was also briefly discussed, but it was agreed that the drafting would continue using the climate change experts' network.

Regarding the improvement of ASEM's institutional mechanisms, as tasked by the Kyoto FMM, the partners agreed on the financing of the ASEM Virtual Secretariat (AVS). The question of the future enlargement was also on the table, but no decisions were yet taken.

Open-ended coordinator's meeting in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), 25 July 2006

The SOM was followed-up by an open-ended Coordinators' meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 25 July 2006 for further discussion of the draft Chairman's statement and the question of future enlargement. Most Asian partners participated in this meeting. On the EU side, the Member States had a chance to convey their views on the Chairman's statement in the COASI working group, which was held at the end of July.



Senior Officials' Meeting in Helsinki, Finland, 9 September 2006

The work on the Summit documents was concluded at the SOM immediately prior to ASEM 6 in Helsinki, and after some consultations the final draft of the Chairman's Statement was delivered to the partners along with the final draft of the Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM. The ASEM 6 Declaration on Climate Change was finalised after comprehensive expert-level negotiations in a separate drafting session.

Ministerial meetings

In addition to the above mentioned meetings, a number of other meetings, including ministerial ones were held, each of which contributed significantly to the successful outcome of ASEM 6. The ministerial meetings were as follows:

Culture Ministers' Meeting in Paris, France, 7-8 June 2005

The 2nd Culture Ministers' Meeting was held in Paris on 7-8 June 2005, enhancing the cooperation and promoting the dialogue among cultures and civilizations, which has been a significant part of ASEM especially since the 2002 Copenhagen Summit. In Paris the ministers reconfirmed the importance of the intercultural and intercivili-sational dialogue as the main tool to enhance mutual understanding and tolerance as well as the importance of the protection and prmotion of cultural diversity. The ministers also outlined a long-term action plan as requested by the Hanoi Summit.

Finance Ministers' Meeting in Tianjin, China, 25-26 June 2005

The 6th ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting was held in Tianjin, China, on 25-26 June 2005. The theme of the meeting was "Closer ASEM Economic and Financial Cooperation". Ministers discussed current macroeconomic developments and global development issues as well as policy challenges and responses to promote sustainable growth in their regions. The meeting also initiated the Tianjin Action Plan.

Finance Ministers' Meeting in Vienna, Austria, 8 April 2006

The 7th Finance Ministers' Meeting, held in Vienna, followed up on the Tianjin meeting. The themes of the Vienna FnMM included global economic develop-ments, and the discussion on adjusting to the global division of labour and over-

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all balance between benefits and challenges of globalisation also fitted very well to the planned agenda of the Summit.

Labour and Employment Minister's Conference in Potsdam, Germany, 3-5 September 2006

The 1st meeting of the ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers took place in Potsdam, near Berlin, just prior to the ASEM 6 Summit. The meeting was an important new opening to strengthen the area of labour issues and the social dimension of globalisation within the ASEM. The well-prepared and substantive agenda also contributed in particular to the session on globalisation and competitiveness at ASEM 6.

III ASEM 6 SUMMIT IN HELSINKI



The conduct of the Summit

The ASEM 6 Summit was attended by 38 current partner countries and the EU Commission and 35 of the participants were represented at Heads of State and Government level. Overall, more than 3,500 persons participated in the Summit and its side events, including 1,500 delegates and approximately 1,050 journalists.

Work at the Summit was organised in four closed sessions. In addition, a working lunch and the traditional dinner in retreat format were organised. The opening and closing ceremonies were open for the press. The meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister of Finland Matti Vanhanen. On 10 September the President of the Republic of Finland, Tarja Halonen, hosted the retreat dinner at the Presidential Palace. The Foreign Minister of Finland, Erkki Tuomioja, hosted an informal dinner at the Government Banquet Hall

The Summit was officially opened by President Halonen, who warmly welcomed the participants to Helsinki. Prime Minister Vanhanen called the ASEM process a key building stone to a globalised world of opportunity. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung of Vietnam, in his capacity as the host of the preceding ASEM Summit in 2004, emphasised the achievements of the process. The leaders of the other co-ordinator countries also spoke: President Roh Moo Hyun of the Republic of Korea recalled the Helsinki Declaration of the CSCE, which could serve as a model for co-operation in Asia. President José Manuel Barroso of the European Commission emphasised that the Summit could strengthen the Asia-Europe partnership in a globalised world in which borders are meaningless. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia praised the rise in the quality of the dialogue between Asia and Europe and its deepening global context.

The first session took place under the theme "Strengthening multilateralism and addressing security threats". Leaders discussed traditional and non-traditional security threats, which could only be addressed by an effective, credible and rules-based multilateral system. The central role of the United Nations was underlined and calls were made for determined implementation of the UN reform process. The problem of international terrorism was addressed and it was noted that prevention of terrorism requires attention to a broad range of issues. Calls were made for better international cooperation and the dialogue among cultures

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and civilisations was noted as an important tool to fight terrorism. Leaders also discussed threats posed by communicable diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and avian influenza.

At the retreat dinner Prime Minister Vanhanen introduced the debate by describing the latest developments in Europe. The current chair of ASEAN described the developments on the Asian side, stating also that the organisation's common desire was to evolve along the same lines as the EU and increase its level of integration. The discussion during the dinner also touched upon various other regional issues, taking a form of free and informal dialogue and spontaneous interventions.

The first session on Monday 11 September was devoted to "Dialogue among Cultures and Civilisations". The session began with a moment of silence to commemorate the victims of 9/11 and other acts of random violence. The need to promote tolerance and mutual understanding and to overcome ignorance and prejudice was emphasised. The use of violence in the name of religion was firmly rejected, and as misperceptions and misunderstanding were one source of fanaticism and extremism, it was stressed that efforts to enhance dialogue and education should be strengthened at all levels. Partners also stated that ASEM is uniquely placed to promote and take the lead in this dialogue, the ASEM Interfaith Dialogue being a good example of how to work for increased respect and tolerance. Short discussions followed on the importance of respecting and promoting cultural diversity and of intensifying people-to-people exchanges, stressing also the role of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in this respect. At the end of the session, the leaders were addressed by Mr Paavo Lipponen, speaker of the Finnish Parliament and the President of the 4th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting.

Over the working luncheon a very intensive discussion took place on "Sustainable Development including Environment and Energy Security". It was underlined that it is fully possible to delink sustainable economic growth from increasing energy consumption and environmental degradation, and that active policies leading to sustainable development should be pursued. Energy security would be improved by effective and transparent energy markets and open and stable conditions for investment, by promoting energy efficiency and energy savings, by encouraging the use of renewable and alternative energies, and by the development and transfer of efficient and clean technologies. Moreover, the importance of improving access to modern energy services for the poor was highlighted. Concerning climate change, the partners recognised their crucial role and joint responsibility in contributing to the multilateral dialogue on further development of international climate change policies. In this context, they stressed the essential



role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol. Mindful of the importance of carrying on the work against climate change, leaders adopted the ASEM 6 Declaration on Climate Change.

During the third session on “Globalisation and competitiveness” the importance of competition, appropriate structural policies for growth and development, and the need to prevent protectionism were underlined. Calls were made for the resumption of the Doha Development Round. Improved system of global governance and the aspects of the social dimension of globalisation were noted. Mr Christoffer Taxell, the Chairman of the 10th Asia-Europe Business Forum, addressed the session at its beginning.

At the final session of the Summit the leaders discussed the Future of ASEM and in this context they took the political decision to enlarge ASEM to include Bulgaria and Romania as EU acceding countries and India, Mongolia, Pakistan and the ASEAN Secretariat on the Asian side. Leaders adopted the Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM with an Annex on ASEM Working Methods and Institutional Mechanisms. The ASEM Virtual Secretariat was inaugurated as a means to facilitate coordination and information-sharing.

At the closing ceremony Prime Minister Vanhanen welcomed the decision on the new members of ASEM and underlined that their accession proved the attractiveness and dynamism of the ASEM process. Leaders shared the determination to achieve meaningful and concrete outcomes also with an enlarged membership. He concluded the meeting by stating that the Summit deliberations had brought the two regions closer together and helped to define joint responses to global challenges.

To conclude the summit, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand recalled the historic first Summit in Bangkok in 1996. Premier Wen Jiabao of China said that he counted on the active support of all ASEM members to make meaningful progress on the strategic dialogue, economic cooperation and the dialogue of cultures and civilisations by the next Summit in China in 2008.

The ASEM 6 Chairman’s Statement

The issues discussed at the Summit are reflected in the Chairman’s Statement. The format and the structure of the statement follows the structure of the Summit’s closed sessions on political, economic and cultural issues, working lunch on sustainable development, climate change and energy, and the retreat dinner

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on regional developments. The final section is devoted to the future of ASEM. In addition to the two political declarations the List of ASEM Initiatives and the Calendar of ASEM events 2006-2008 are annexed.

The comprehensive list of all ASEM initiatives was based on a study "Overall Report on ASEM Initiatives", conducted by the Republic of Korea during the beginning of 2006. The Calendar of Events lists all seminars, ministerials and conferences etc, which took place or will take place during the two years between ASEM 6 and ASEM 7.

The ASEM 6 Declaration on Climate Change

The Declaration on Climate Change was initially proposed by Finland as a logical continuation of the discussions at the Hanoi Summit and the following meetings, in particular the Kyoto FMM. The draft text was prepared by a group of experts from interested partners organised into an ASEM climate change e-mail network, set up in the Singapore Open-ended Working Group in May 2006 and co-ordinated by the ASEM 6 Secretariat. The Declaration was finalised in a separate working session prior to the Summit on 9 September. Furthermore, ASEM partners convened in the margins of the UN Climate Change Conferences in Montreal in November/December 2005 and in Bonn in May 2006 to coordinate their approaches and to build common support for the work ahead under the UNFCCC.

The ASEM 6 Declaration on Climate Change demonstrated ASEM partners' determination to work jointly for an effective international response to address climate change and underlined the crucial role of ASEM partners in shaping and forging both long-term policies and immediate actions for mitigation and adaptation measures. ASEM is ideally placed to enhance the critical mass of global political will, which is required in the search for common responses in the context of different multilateral fora, and the partners confirmed their commitment to further intensifying their cooperation to this end. The Declaration aims specifically at contributing to the multilateral efforts in meeting present and future commitments under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, with the ultimate goal of stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. The firm support expressed through the Declaration was a remarkable step in taking the process forward at a time when the international community was preparing for the UN climate conferences in Nairobi in November 2006 as well as other forthcoming UNFCCC conferences.



The Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM

At ASEM 5 in October 2004, the leaders tasked Foreign Ministers and Senior Officials to study and submit recommendations on the continued improvement of ASEM's institutional mechanisms. The joint study "ASEM in its Tenth Year" and its conclusions were presented to the Vienna SOM in March 2006. The Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM builds on this Finnish-Japanese evaluation report as well as on the Overview Report on ASEM Initiatives prepared by the Republic of Korea. After ASEM partners provided input and comments, the ASEM Senior Officials Meeting in Hämeenlinna (19-20 June 2006) reached a broad consensus on the form and content of the draft text of the Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM and its Annex.

The declaration provides, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the ASEM process, a set of guiding principles and recommendations which can successfully lead ASEM into its second decade. It underlines ASEM's importance and vital role as a framework for dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe, defines ASEM's broad perspectives as well as focussed areas for action, and aims to reinforce its institutional mechanisms. The Annex aims to ensure a smoother overall management, increase the continuity of the process, and enhance the efficient administration of initiatives. The text emphasises the importance of clustered cross-dimensional issues and projects in line with the overall priorities in the core areas of substantive cooperation, and issue-based leadership as a tool to ensure the progress and monitoring of initiatives; proposes a number of tools to ensure smooth overall steering and coordinating mechanisms, including the ASEM Virtual Secretariat (AVS); and suggests ways to increase visibility, public awareness, and links with stakeholders.

Enlargement of ASEM

Both the ASEM 5 Summit in Hanoi in 2004 and the 7th Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kyoto in 2005 called for the ASEM 6 Summit in Helsinki to take decisions regarding the enlargement of ASEM. On the European side this would mean taking account of the ongoing enlargement of the European Union and the forthcoming accession of Bulgaria and Romania. On the Asian side the need for new Asian candidates was recognised.

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The enlargement process was discussed among the partners throughout the preparatory process. At the Hämeenlinna SOM a consensus started to emerge on proceeding with ASEM enlargement. The Asian decision on the candidatures of India, Pakistan, Mongolia and the ASEAN Secretariat was finalised at the ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 26 July.

The SOM held immediately prior to the ASEM 6 Summit on 9 September agreed to invite the above-mentioned countries to join the process. The decision was confirmed at the ASEM 6 Summit and agreement was reached that the new partners will join the ASEM partnership as soon as the respective internal procedures by the European and the Asian sides are completed. Leaders tasked the next Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Germany in 2007 to report on these internal procedures. The formal celebrations of the admission of the new partners will be held at the 2008 ASEM Summit in China.

The decision to invite new partners to join the process is a historic milestone in Asia-Europe relations in general and the ASEM process in particular as the participation of the new partners will significantly strengthen the ASEM process and increase its global visibility and weight.

Press and communications

Finland as the host of the ASEM 6 paid particular attention to the media and communications in order to enhance the visibility and general awareness of the ASEM 6 Summit and the process in general.

The ASEM 6 website (www.asem6.fi) was opened at the beginning of May and it provided both basic and topical information on the ASEM 6 Summit and the ASEM process. During the Summit it also provided a possibility for the media and general audience to follow the opening and closing ceremonies and press briefings online.

Before the Summit the leaders of the four ASEM coordinators prepared an article entitled "Seeking joint responses to global challenges - Asia and Europe look to the future on ASEM's tenth anniversary", which was published in over 30 newspapers in the ASEM countries in early September. In addition, Finland organised, together with the European Commission, a number of pre-Summit press conferences in the European and Asian ASEM capitals during the few months before the Summit in order to generate interest among the press. To provide



material for the press conferences and to the general public, both Finland and the European Commission published brochures on ASEM.

Also the various side events that were organised before and parallel to the Summit helped in enhancing greater visibility for the Summit.

During the ASEM 6 Summit the key points of the discussions were summed up after each working session in Chairman's Press Remarks in order to provide the press with information on the conversations of the closed sessions. These points and the key outcomes of the Summit were summarised in the Final Press Release, which was issued immediately after the Summit. After the closing ceremony the leaders of the four ASEM coordinators, namely Finland as EU Presidency, the European Commission, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea, held a joint press conference.

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IV RELATED AND PARALLEL ACTIVITIES

A number of other activities and events were organised in parallel with and prior to the ASEM 6 Summit to support and complete the Summit itself. Over 1,000 persons participated in the various side events.

Four forums were organised for different stakeholders:

- The 4th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting was organised by the Finnish Parliament on 4-5 May 2006.
- The 6th Asia-Europe People's Forum on 3-6 September was organised by the Service Centre for Development Cooperation (KEPA) together with a number of Finnish and international NGOs.
- The ASEM Trade Union Summit, held on 7-8 September, was organised by the Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions (SAK), the Finnish Confederation of Salaried Employees (STTK) and the Confederation of Unions for Academic Professionals in Finland together with the international trade union confederations.
- The 10th Asia-Europe Business Forum was held parallel to the Summit on 10-11 September, organised by the Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK).

In addition, various other ASEM related activities were held in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the ASEM process. With the exception of the last one, all the events on the following list were organised together with the Asia-Europe Foundation in order to enhance better and broader interaction between the ASEM process and the citizens of Asia and Europe. The events were as follows:

- The 4th Asia-Europe Art Camp brought together 20 Asian and European art students from 12-20 June 2006.
- On 7-8 September 2006, at a symposium ASEM@10: Connecting Civil Societies of Asia and Europe, various ASEM actors from the fields of business, governance and civil society discussed possible future directions of the ASEM cooperation.
- The 3rd Asia-Europe Editors' Roundtable on 9 September 2006 brought together approximately 30 editors-in-chief and senior journalists to Helsinki to discuss the main themes of ASEM 6 on the eve of the Summit.
- A number of cultural events presenting Asian cultures were organised in different parts of Finland throughout the year 2006.
- An open debate on Asia-Europe relations and the ASEM 6 Summit for a Finnish audience was organised on 8 September.



The role of the business community has traditionally been very strong in the ASEM process. Closer involvement by parliaments, academia and civil society in the broad sense is also important, not only for the visibility and awareness of the cooperation but also to enhance a stronger feeling of ownership among the citizens of Asia and Europe. On the 10th anniversary of the ASEM cooperation, Finland paid particular attention to strengthening the interaction of parliaments and civil society with the governmental ASEM process. Achievements in this field can be seen as one of the important outcomes of the Summit.

During the preparations of the Summit, Finland had close contacts with the different stakeholders and organisers of the various events. In addition to the tradition of the Asia-Europe Business Forum of passing the recommendations of the business community to the leaders, the chairman of the 4th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting was invited to convey a message from the parliaments of the ASEM countries to the leaders for the first time ever. Other related events were also able to communicate their messages to Prime Minister Vanhanen, the host of the Summit, who passed the messages to the other leaders. Furthermore, the Finnish President, Prime Minister and other government ministers took part in the different events to further strengthen the interaction and cooperation between the governments and the ASEM stakeholders.

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Asia-Europe Meeting ASEM6 Summit

Helsinki 10–11 September 2006

Appendices

Appendix 1

Programme of the ASEM6 Summit

Sunday, September 10

Media Centre open 24h

Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Halls 4 & 5

08:00-24:00 Delegation Area open

Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Hall 6

09:00-13:00 Possibility for bilateral meetings

Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Delegation Area, Hall 6

10:00-11:00 Asian leaders' meeting

Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Hall 3 (Left)

Participants: Heads of Delegation + 5

11:30-13:30 Lunch for the Asian leaders

Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Restaurant Terra Nova

Participants: Asian leaders and spouses

11:30-13:30 Buffet lunch for delegates

Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Delegation Area, Hall 6

13:00- Arrivals

Entrance: Heads of Delegation: South, Holiday Inn

13:00- Official greeting for the Heads of Delegation

Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Winter Garden

The Heads of Delegation will be greeted by the President of the Republic of Finland Mrs Tarja Halonen and the Prime Minister of Finland Mr Matti Vanhanen

14:00-14:45 Opening Ceremony

– "Celebration of the 10 years of ASEM"

Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Amfi

Participants: Heads of Delegation, spouses, Ministers, Senior Officials, delegates, media and other invited guests

Interpretation: English

Opening Remarks by the President of the Republic of Finland
Speech by the Prime Minister of Finland, as Summit Host
Speech by the Prime Minister of Vietnam, as former Host
Speech by the President of the Republic of Korea,
as Coordinator – Asia
Speech by the President of the European Commission,
as Coordinator – Europe
Speech by the President of Indonesia, as Coordinator - Asia

Remarks: Heads of Delegation entering as one group led by the Prime Minister of Finland.

Family Photo

Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Amfi
Participants: Heads of Delegation

15:30-17:00 First closed session
“Strengthening multilateralism and addressing security threats”

Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Plenary room, 101
Participants: Heads of Delegation
Interpretation:
Asian languages: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese
European languages: All official languages into English, French, German, Italian, Spanish

15:30-15:35 Media tour de table

17:00- Possibility for bilateral meetings

Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Delegation Area, Hall 6

17:00-17:30 Reception for the Heads of Delegation and Asian and European business leaders hosted by the Prime Minister of Finland

Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Winter Garden
Participants: Heads of Delegation, Deputy Heads of Delegation, other Ministers, Senior Officials, Ambassadors as well as Asian and European business leaders

- 19:30- Dinner for the Heads of Delegation in retreat format hosted by the President of the Republic of Finland**
Venue: Presidential Palace
Participants: Heads of Delegation
Language: English; no interpretation, whispering if needed.
Note that interpreters must carry an interpreter's badge (red badge marked with "I").
Remarks: including a room for monitoring and listening.
- 19:00- Dinner for the Ministers hosted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland**
Venue: Government Banquet Hall
Participants: Deputy Heads of Delegation and other Ministers
Interpretation: None.
- 20:00- Buffet Reception for the delegations and media representatives hosted by the City of Helsinki**
Venue: Helsinki City Hall
Participants: Delegates and Media

Monday, 11 September
Media Centre open 24h

Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Halls 4 & 5
Entrance: North and South

- 08:00-20:00 Delegation Area open**
Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Hall 6
Entrance: North and South

- 09:00- Possibility for bilateral meetings**
Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Delegation Area, Hall 6

- 10:30-12:00 Second closed session**
"Dialogue among Cultures and Civilisations"
Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Plenary room, 101
Participants: Heads of Delegation
Interpretation:
Asian languages: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese
European languages: All official languages into English, French, German, Italian, Spanish

- 10:30-10:35 Media tour de table**
Silent moment for victims of 9/11
- Address by Mr Paavo Lipponen, Speaker of the Parliament of Finland, ASEP IV President**
- 12:15-14:00 Working lunch hosted by the Prime Minister of Finland**
“Sustainable Development including Environment and Energy Security”
Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Winter Garden
Participants: Heads of Delegation
Language: English; no interpretation, whispering if needed.
Note that interpreters must carry an interpreter’s badge (red badge marked with “I”).
- 12:15-14:00 Lunch for the Ministers hosted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland**
Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Ministerial Lounge
Interpretation: None.
- 12:15-14:00 Buffet lunch for Delegates**
Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Delegation Area, Hall 6
- 14:15-16:15 Third closed session**
“Globalisation and Competitiveness”
Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Plenary room, 101
Participants: Heads of Delegation
Interpretation:
Asian languages: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese
European languages: All official languages into English, French, German, Italian, Spanish
- 14:15-14:20 Media tour de table**
- Address by Mr Christoffer Taxell, Chairman of AEBF10 Coffee**

16:15-17:00 Fourth closed session

"Future of ASEM"

Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Plenary room, 101

Participants: Heads of Delegation

Interpretation:

Asian languages: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese

European languages: All official languages into English,

French, German, Italian, Spanish

17:00-17:30 Closing Ceremony

Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Amfi

Participants: Heads of Delegation, Ministers, Senior Officials,
delegates, media

Interpretation: English

Statement by the Prime Minister of Finland, as Summit Host

Remarks by the Prime Minister of Thailand, as host of ASEM1

Remarks by the Prime Minister of China, as next host

17:40-18:00 Coordinators' Press Conference

Venue: Helsinki Fair Centre, Amfi

Participants: ASEM Coordinators

Interpretation: English, Korean, Finnish, Swedish

Appendix 2

Heads of delegation to the ASEM6

Country	Head of Delegation	Title
Asia		
Brunei Darussalam	Haji Hassanal Bolkiah	Sultan and Yang DiPertuan
Cambodia	Samdech Hun Sen	Prime Minister
China	Wen Jiabao	Premier
Indonesia	Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono	President
Japan	Junichiro Koizumi	Prime Minister
Laos	Bouasone Bouphavanh	Prime Minister
Malaysia	Dato's Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi	Prime Minister
Myanmar	U Nyan Win	Foreign Minister
Philippines	Gloria Macapagal Arroyo	President
Republic of Korea	Roh Moo-hyun	President
Singapore	Lee Hsien Loong	Prime Minister
Thailand	Thaksin Shinawatra	Prime Minister
Vietnam	Nguyen Tan Dung	Prime Minister
Europe		
Austria	Wolfgang Schäussel	Federal Chancellor
Belgium	Guy Verhofstadt	Prime Minister
Cyprus	Tassos Papadopoulos	President
Czech Republic	Mirek Topolánek	Prime Minister
Denmark	Anders Fogh Rasmussen	Prime Minister
Estonia	Andrus Ansip	Prime Minister
European Commission	José Manuel Barroso	President
Finland	Matti Vanhanen	Prime Minister
France	Jacques Chirac	President
Germany	Angela Merkel	Federal Chancellor
Greece	Kostas Karamanlis	Prime Minister
Hungary	Kinga Göncz	Foreign Minister
Ireland	Bertie Ahern	Taoiseach (Prime Minister)
Italy	Romano Prodi	Prime Minister
Latvia	Vaira Vike-Freiberga	President
Lithuania	Valdas Adamkus	President
Luxembourg	Jean-Claude Juncker	Prime Minister
Malta	Lawrence Gonzi	Prime Minister
Netherlands	Jan Peter Balkenende	Prime Minister
Poland	Jaroslaw Kaczyński	Prime Minister
Portugal	José Sócrates	Prime Minister
Slovakia	Robert Fico	Prime Minister
Slovenia	Janez Janša	Prime Minister
Spain	José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero	Prime Minister
Bosse Ringholm	Deputy Prime	Minister
United Kingdom	John Prescott	Deputy Prime Minister

Appendix 3

Chairman's Statement of the 6th Asia-Europe Meeting

The sixth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM6) was held in Helsinki on 10-11 September 2006. The Summit was attended by the Heads of State and Government of thirteen Asian and twenty-five European nations and the President of the European Commission. The Prime Minister of Finland, acting also as the President of the European Council, chaired this historic meeting.

Leaders, recalling their previous meetings in Bangkok (1996), London (1998), Seoul (2000), Copenhagen (2002), and Hanoi (2004), held comprehensive, in-depth and fruitful discussions on various topical issues of common interest under the overarching theme *10 Years of ASEM: Global Challenges - Joint Responses*.

Leaders noted with appreciation the positive outcomes of Foreign and Financial Ministers' Meetings as well as Culture and Labour Ministers' Meetings since ASEM5, and endorsed their recommendations.

10 Years of ASEM: Global Challenges – Joint Responses

1. Leaders acknowledged the significant growth in the importance of Asia and Europe as global political and economic actors during the past decade. They welcomed the intensification of Asia-Europe relations and enhanced interaction in all major areas of cooperation, reflecting the common efforts of both regions to develop joint responses to the profound changes in the international environment, including increased global interdependence.

2. Looking back at the first ten years of ASEM, Leaders welcomed ASEM's overall achievements in promoting peace and stability, emphasising that during its first decade ASEM has gained strength as a multifaceted dialogue facilitator and established its role as a platform for policy development between Asia and Europe. They noted with satisfaction the expansion of political interaction, progress in the accomplishment of a stronger economic partnership, closer dialogue between peoples of various cultures, and a better awareness of cross-dimensional issues affecting both regions. Moreover, Leaders appreciated the wealth and diversity of activities carried out during ASEM's first decade as evidenced by the comprehensive list of initiatives (as annexed) based on the Overview Report on ASEM Initiatives.

Regional Developments

3. Leaders discussed the continuing integration process of the European Union, which has promoted peace, stability, and development in Europe since its inception. They exchanged views and reaffirmed their support for the ongoing processes of community-building in East Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), noting also the Vientiane Action Programme. They further welcomed the first East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Kuala Lumpur in December 2005 and its role as an integral part of the overall evolving regional architecture, with ASEAN as the driving force. Furthermore, Leaders took note of the EU's intention to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) and looked forward to the EU's participation in the rapidly evolving regional cooperation, recognising that building an East Asian community would contribute to peace, security, prosperity and progress in the region and beyond. Leaders discussed and took stock of regional developments and experiences related to regional security dialogue and cooperation, in particular as regards the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as a model for regional security cooperation and confidence-building. Leaders also welcomed the co-operation between the EU and countries in Southeast Asia contributing to the Aceh Monitoring Mission, as a positive reflection of close cooperation between Europe and Asia in promoting peace and security.

4. Leaders exchanged views on developments on the Korean Peninsula. They emphasized that the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula is essential in maintaining peace and stability in Northeast Asia, and voiced support for the peaceful resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue through dialogue. They reaffirmed their support for the Joint Statement of the Six Party Talks unanimously adopted on 19 September 2005 in Beijing. They also stressed that any action that might further aggravate the situation should be refrained from, and urged the DPRK to return immediately to the Six-Party Talks without precondition and to work towards the expeditious implementation of the Joint Statement. Leaders expressed serious concern over the recent test-firing of missiles by the DPRK that jeopardised peace, stability and security in the region and beyond, reaffirming their support for UN Security Council resolution 1695. They also emphasised the importance of addressing the humanitarian concerns. Leaders shared the view that, reflecting the European experiences of successfully transforming their mistrust and confrontation into dialogue and cooperation, promoting multilateral security cooperation in Northeast Asia would enhance mutual understanding and confidence among the countries in the region and thereby lay the foundation for greater peace and common prosperity in Northeast Asia.

5. Leaders took note of the briefing on the recent political developments in Myanmar given by the Head of the Myanmar delegation. Leaders welcomed ASEAN's efforts and their statement on Myanmar in the Joint Communiqué of the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (Kuala Lumpur, July 2006). They also welcomed UN Under Secretary General Ibrahim Gambari's visit to Myanmar in May 2006 and reaffirmed their continued support for the efforts of the UN Secretary General to bring about peaceful political change. They encouraged the Government of Myanmar to engage constructively with ASEAN, the UN, and the international community. Leaders expressed deep concern on the lack of tangible progress and lack of inclusiveness in the process towards national reconciliation and called for a transition via an inclusive process to a democratic government, in line with the assurances given by Myanmar at the ASEM5 Summit (Hanoi, 2004). They also called for the early lifting of restrictions placed on political parties, the early release of those placed under detention, and for effective dialogue between all parties concerned.

6. Leaders exchanged views on the recent developments in Timor-Leste and welcomed the adoption of UNSCR 1704, which led to the establishment of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) for restoring stability, law and order in Timor-Leste. They also welcomed the contribution of countries, including ASEM partners, which had responded to the request of the Timor-Leste Government in May 2006 to assist in stabilizing the situation there. Leaders called upon the international community to extend assistance to Timor-Leste while respecting the country's integrity and ownership of its national development process.

7. Recalling the need to assist the Afghan Government in establishing its control throughout the country, Leaders reaffirmed their long-term commitment to assist the Afghan Government in the stabilisation and rebuilding of Afghanistan within the framework of the Afghanistan Compact. They noted that although much has been achieved during recent years, formidable challenges still lie ahead in the arena of security, rule of law, governance and human rights as well as economic and social development. Leaders also stressed the importance of the moves to enhance governance, the importance of increased and better coordinated counter-narcotics efforts in and around Afghanistan and the security sector reform including disbandment of illegal armed groups. Leaders expressed their support for the reinforcement of regional cooperation and dialogue with regard to Afghanistan, in particular in the framework of SAARC. They also welcomed the 2nd conference on economic regional cooperation, which will take place in New Delhi (18-19 November).

8. Leaders welcomed the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 which led to the cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah, mindful of the

high incidence of civilian casualties and heavy losses on both sides. They confirmed that UNSCR 1701 sets the principles and elements for a political solution of the crisis supported by the reinforced UNIFIL forces. They also acknowledged the leadership role played by the EU as well as the offers to contribute troops to UNIFIL by some ASEM partners. They urged all concerned parties to lift all obstacles to the free access to the Lebanese territory of persons and goods, notably in order to allow the reconstruction of Lebanon. They recalled the necessity for all states to comply with the embargo on arms and related material to any entity or individual other than those authorized by the government of Lebanon or by UNIFIL, in accordance with the terms of UNSCR 1701. They also stressed the importance of strengthening the Lebanese government and of supporting all its efforts to extend its authority over its territory. Leaders urged all parties in the region to continue to play a constructive role in helping to swiftly and fully implement this resolution. They called on the international community to extend humanitarian assistance to the victims of the recent war.

9. Leaders reaffirmed their support for efforts to reach a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. They also reaffirmed their support for a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on existing agreements, which include the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and the principles laid down in the Road Map.

10. Leaders emphasised their commitment to seek a diplomatic and peaceful solution which addresses international concerns about Iran's nuclear programme. They called on Iran to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1696 (2006) and all Resolutions of the IAEA Board of Governors, and noted with concern the IAEA's 31 August report detailing Iran's failure to suspend enrichment activity and Iran's continuing failure to co-operate with the IAEA. Leaders welcomed the proposals put forward by China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the High Representative of the European Union, for a comprehensive arrangement with Iran, based on mutual respect and the establishment of international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. They called on Iran to respond positively to these proposals.

11. Leaders welcomed the formation of a constitutionally elected government in Iraq and the priority given in its programme to promoting national reconciliation and the rule of law. They noted the International Compact put forward by the Iraqi government. They reaffirmed their support for the Iraqi government in its efforts to ensure unity, security, stability and prosperity of the country, and encouraged further international engagement with Iraq.

Strengthening Multilateralism and Addressing Security Threats

12. Leaders underlined that modern challenges and threats recognise no national boundaries, are interlinked and require common solutions. They reconfirmed their strong support for a fair, just, and rules-based multilateral international system with the United Nations playing a central role, and reaffirmed their commitment to promoting peace and security, sustainable development and human rights in accordance with the UN Charter and international law. Leaders stressed the importance of the continued implementation of the reforms and commitments agreed at the 2005 UN World Summit, including the necessity of reforming the UN's principal organs. They welcomed the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council as well as the continued progress on the UN management reform and the High Level Panel set up to examine more effective delivery of UN development, humanitarian, and environmental operations. Moreover, Leaders reaffirmed their continued commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and poverty reduction. They also emphasised the need for more efficient environmental activities in the UN system and for exploring the possibility of a more coherent institutional framework, building on existing institutions. Leaders referred to the need to ensure that there is no impunity for the most serious international crimes and discussed in this context the role of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Within the ASEM context the Leaders also noted the value of initiatives such as the Informal Human Rights Seminars.

13. Leaders emphasised the importance of multilateral efforts for strengthening disarmament and the non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery. They stressed the importance of universalisation, implementation and compliance with the international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties, including the need to implement UNSC Resolution 1540/2004. They reiterated the importance of cooperation to ensure a successful outcome of the 2006 Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) as well as the importance of the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Furthermore, they welcomed the ongoing efforts to establish standards for the global transfer of conventional arms and reconfirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation to prevent trafficking of illicit small arms and light weapons.

14. On the 5th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, Leaders observed a moment of silence in commemoration of all victims of terrorism. They reaffirmed their commitment to the fight against terrorism, which still poses a threat to the international community, and underlined the need for a comprehensive approach. Leaders stressed that the fight against terrorism must be carried out in accordance with international law, in particular the UN Charter, respect of human rights, refugee law and international humanitarian law. They agreed

that it is equally important to identify and address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, as a means of preventing radicalisation and recruitment into violent extremism and rejected any attempts to associate terrorism with any religion, race, nationality, or ethnic group. Leaders welcomed the recent adoption of the General Assembly Resolution on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and called on states to become parties to and fully implement all UN Conventions and Protocols related to terrorist acts as well as relevant UN Resolutions, and called for the finalisation of the negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. Moreover, they asserted their determination to prevent the use of nuclear weapons and other WMD to commit terrorist acts, and underlined the need to ensure the early entry into force of the International Convention on the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism and the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. They acknowledged the importance of preventing the financing of terrorism and related efforts against money-laundering in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations. Leaders noted with appreciation the ongoing practical ASEM cooperation on counter-terrorism, including within the framework of the UNCTC, and endorsed the recommendations made at the ASEM Conferences on Counter-Terrorism.

15. Taking into consideration the shared interest in ensuring an effective response to serious forms of organised crime, such as trafficking in persons, money-laundering, terrorism financing and corruption, drugs-trafficking and illicit arms-trade, Leaders recognised the important role of the multilateral system and particularly the implementation of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols, as well as the UN Conventions on corruption and illicit drugs. In this context they welcomed the positive outcomes of the first ASEM Prosecutors-General Meeting. Furthermore, recognising the importance of mitigating threats to the Sea Lanes of Communication between Asia and Europe, Leaders discussed maritime security, and safe and secure conditions of air and maritime transportation, *including safety of international energy transporting routes.*

16. Leaders emphasised the need to promote global health security and reiterated their determination to combat global health threats, such as HIV/AIDS, avian influenza and a possible human influenza pandemic, tuberculosis and malaria. They took note of the Political Declaration of the UN High Level meeting on AIDS in 2006 and reaffirmed their commitment to pursuing all necessary efforts towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010. Leaders also affirmed their commitment to facilitating access to antiretroviral treatment (ARV) in the developing world. Moreover, Leaders recognised the efforts made in various international fora to fight highly pathogenic avian influenza, stressing the importance of

research cooperation and of establishing monitoring systems and prompt initial responses, including at grass-roots level. In this context they also stressed the importance of honouring commitments made at relevant international pledging conferences and the implementation of the recently revised International Health Regulations. Leaders welcomed the concrete common actions on global health issues within the ASEM framework and invited partners to continue their cooperation.

17. Leaders recalled the unprecedented loss of life and destruction caused by the 2004 tsunami and other devastating natural events and expressed their solidarity with the people and communities affected. They commended the efforts made to respond to these disasters and expressed appreciation for the actions taken to build resilience through people-centred regional early-warning systems and other emergency response mechanisms. Leaders underlined the need to strengthen global disaster reduction activities and capabilities, including mitigating the risk and the impact of disasters and facilitating effective civil-military response to disasters, building upon relevant international commitments and frameworks and reaffirming the vital coordinating role of the UN system. In this respect Leaders took further note of the important work on disasters management and emergency response within the ASEAN. Leaders also welcomed the establishment of the UN Central Emergency Response Fund.

Globalisation and Competitiveness

18. Leaders discussed globalisation, the acceleration of exchanges, and the opportunities for economic growth that globalisation is bringing about both in Asia and Europe. They exchanged views on how to manage the rapid transformation and structural change of their countries' economies while recognising the need to tackle the challenges of globalisation and to extend its benefits to all. Leaders reconfirmed that the process of market opening provides irreplaceable benefits overall and boosts productivity. They underlined that structural reform and effective policies at all levels, are needed to address the challenges posed by adjustment to globalisation and to seize the opportunities that it provides, stressing at the same time that protectionism has to be resisted in defining these policies.

19. Leaders discussed the state-of-play of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations. They expressed deep regret about the suspension of the negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and underlined the importance of preserving the integrity and credibility of the multilateral trading system and of realising the development promise of the DDA. They called on all parties to the negotiations to show the necessary political will and flexibility to allow the negotiations to resume as soon as circumstances allow. They emphasised the importance of achieving an ambitious and balanced outcome resulting in new commercial opportunities and improvement of existing global trade rules, while

taking into account the needs and interests of developing and least-developed countries. Leaders underlined the importance of flanking such an agreement with appropriate measures aimed at further integrating developing and least developed countries in global trade. They encouraged all WTO members to bridge their differences and redouble their efforts to achieve a successful conclusion of the DDA. Bearing in mind the need for greater flexibility to be accorded to developing and least developed countries, Leaders expressed their strong support for Vietnam's entry into the WTO by November 2006 and for the early accession of the Lao PDR to the organisation.

20. Leaders took note of the increase in Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) and underscored that these agreements should support and further the objectives of the multilateral trading system. Leaders agreed on the importance of ensuring that all RTAs are ambitious and comprehensive in scope, fully complying with WTO rules, taking into account the different levels of development of the parties to an RTA, and ensuring the long-term inclusion of developing countries in the world economy. They stressed that such considerations have become even more critical in the light of the recent suspension of the WTO negotiations. In order to maintain a level playing field for all ASEM partners and their respective businesses, they emphasised the need for improvements in market access to be undertaken on a multilateral basis, in parallel with steps to enhance regional or bilateral trade. Similarly, Leaders recognised the need to improve and clarify rules for RTAs in the WTO, once the DDA negotiations are resumed, and in this light welcomed the progress already secured through the proposed new Transparency Mechanism for RTAs.

21. Leaders asserted their commitment to deepening the economic cooperation between the two regions through constructive policy dialogue and action-oriented programmes. In this respect Leaders called on the Economic Ministers to convene at an early date to review past performance and implementation of the Hanoi Declaration on Closer Economic Partnership (CEP). They noted the need to review and consider further action within the Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP) and the Investment Promotion Action Plan (IPAP) further focussing in particular on areas of direct business interest. In this context Leaders took note of the ASEM Customs Directors-General/Commissioners Meetings and the progress made in the customs fora. They stressed their commitment to the promotion and the implementation of effective IP protection worldwide and to combating IPR piracy and counterfeiting, underscoring the importance of international co-operation on and capacity-building in supply chain security. They also noted the dialogue on IP related matters, including in the area of geographical indications. Moreover, Leaders noted with satisfaction the recommendations of the Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF) and emphasised the importance of further engaging the business sector as an active stakeholder in the ASEM process, also wel-

coming the ASEM Trade and Investment Expo. Leaders further emphasised the important role of SMEs in promoting economic development and employment and welcomed the offer by China to host the first Ministerial Meeting on SMEs in 2007.

22. Leaders reaffirmed the need to strengthen ASEM financial cooperation and welcomed the conclusions of the Finance Ministers' meeting in Vienna in 2006, regarding appropriate policy responses for securing balanced and sustained economic expansion. To this end, they welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Tianjin Initiative on Closer ASEM Economic and Financial Cooperation, in particular the ASEM Contingency Dialogue Mechanism for Emergent Economic and Financial events. Leaders appreciated the positive results of the ASEM Trust Fund II and looked forward to advancing cooperation in new areas. In this regard they noted the work of the Finance Ministers in exploring ways to support efforts in policy dialogue and capacity building, including the possibility of establishing a new instrument. They also acknowledged proposals to develop national and regional bond markets in Asia. Leaders noted their willingness to strengthen global governance structures by supporting the proposal for the IMF governance reform. They highlighted the importance of the IMF annual meeting for reaching an agreement on and expeditiously implementing the quota revision, which would give a higher share of influence and responsibility to emerging and developing countries, according to objective criteria, and which could be followed by parallel reforms in other organisations. Leaders welcomed with satisfaction the offer by the Republic of Korea to host the next Finance Ministers' Meeting in 2008.

23. Recalling that structural adjustment is inherent to a changing global economy and that industries and people must be prepared to tackle it, Leaders underlined the need for active labour market policies. In this context, Leaders highlighted the importance of the first ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers' Conference in Germany in 2006 and its results, as well as the need to sustain the substantive ASEM dialogue and cooperation in this field, including with social partners. Leaders also recognised the need to strengthen the social dimension of globalisation, underlining that productive employment, decent work, the protection of the rights of all workers, and social cohesion are crucial for sustainable socio-economic development. They welcomed the Indonesian offer to host the second Ministerial Conference in 2008. Furthermore, Leaders underlined that countries stand to benefit from an orderly and managed process of international migration and agreed to take forward actively cooperation on migration between Asia and Europe, such as through the ASEM Director-General level meetings on migratory flows.

24. Leaders emphasised that qualified human resources constitute a key factor for economic and social development. They recognised that globalisation poses challenges to human resources development affecting the entire field of education and training, and that both Asia and Europe are facing common issues such as managing financing and ensuring quality education and training for all. Leaders also underlined the importance of basic education, vocational training, and life-long learning as investment in human resources. With this in mind, Leaders stressed the value of continued dialogue and exchange of best practices on questions related to education and training, and welcomed the offer by Germany to host the first ASEM Ministerial Meeting on Education in 2008. They also recognised the role of the ASEM DUO Fellowship Programme in promoting exchanges in the field of education.

25. Leaders recognised that investments in know-how and knowledge infrastructures play a key role in the promotion of scientific excellence, competitiveness and well-being of societies, also stressing the need for constructive interplay between different policy areas. To this end, Leaders discussed ways to enhance cooperation in the fields of innovation, science, and technology between all ASEM partners, and emphasised the importance of the EU Research Framework Programmes. In particular, they expressed their support for the ICT Ministerial Meeting to be organised in Vietnam in December 2006, and agreed that the possibility of a follow-up to the first Science and Technology Ministerial Conference should be studied. Furthermore, Leaders acknowledged the important role of the Trans-Eurasian

Information Network (TEIN2) in extending connectivity between Asia and Europe in the fields of research and education, and supported its application in broader areas.

Sustainable Development including Environment and Energy Security

26. Leaders reiterated that economic development, social development, and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development. They endorsed the outcome of the 14th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), and expressed their support for a successful and action-oriented outcome of CSD-15 in 2007. Moreover, Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to eradicate poverty, to ensure the timely and full realisation of the MDGs and to promote global prosperity. To this end they emphasized the need for a substantial increase of resources from all sources, including domestic resources, official development assistance and other resources, as well as effective technical cooperation and capacity building to promote sustainable development and to support developing countries, in particular least developed ones.

27. Leaders emphasised the importance of respecting the limits of the planet's natural resources and of ensuring a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the marine environment. To this end, they underlined the need to manage sustainably and safeguard forest resources, to combat desertification and illegal logging, and to strengthen international co-operation on oceans and seas. Leaders also reiterated the importance of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. Furthermore, Leaders emphasised the importance of accelerating actions to promote sustainable production and consumption, such as the 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Initiative and programmes of education for sustainable development. Leaders underlined the need to carry on the ASEM dialogue on environmental issues, and welcomed the offer by Denmark to host the next Environment Ministers' Meeting in 2007. In this respect, they also noted the valuable role of related activities including the ASEM Oceans Initiative and the Asia-Europe Environment Forum.

28. Leaders recognised that climate change poses a serious threat to sustainable development and the future of our planet. Acknowledging that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation and participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with the principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, they expressed their determination to respond to climate change through international cooperation, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, with a view to achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention. To this end, Leaders adopted the ASEM6 Declaration on Climate Change (as annexed).

29. Leaders underlined the synergies between the promotion of energy security and addressing environmental concerns. They reaffirmed that encouraging energy efficiency and the use of renewable and alternative sources of energy improves access to sustainable, reliable, affordable and modern energy services, noting also that some countries have chosen nuclear power as an option. Furthermore, Leaders emphasised that providing access to energy for the poor contributes to the eradication of poverty in developing countries, as called for in the MDGs.

30. Leaders thoroughly discussed questions related to energy security, reiterating their earlier calls for multilateral measures to promote stable, effective, and transparent global energy markets, and agreed to cooperate in relevant international fora with a view to meeting these challenges. In this context, they noted the importance of the Energy Charter Treaty. Leaders also stressed the importance of strengthening mutually beneficial, open and stable legal conditions conducive to new investments in infrastructure both upstream and downstream. Moreover, they acknowledged that energy security can be enhanced by the diver-

sification of energy sources and geographical origin, appropriate policies affecting energy demand, as well as by collaboration on research and development of renewable and alternative sources of energy. They also recognised the common interest in decreasing the dependency on oil in economies, emphasising measures such as better end-use efficiency and targeted investment and research programmes.

31. Leaders encouraged both public and private actors to further stimulate technological innovation, aiming at sustainable energy resources and energy efficiency through development, transfer, and deployment of technology, and foreseeing the implementation of a well-diversified and climate-friendly mix of technologies adapted to local circumstances. Leaders recognised the immediate mutual benefits of energy efficiency measures such as technology and best practices dissemination, supported by multi-stakeholder involvement including government and market incentives and extension of financing. They also underlined the need for investments in capacity building, such as energy audits and assessments, which enhance the systematic identification of cost-effective energy efficiency measures.

Dialogue among Cultures and Civilisations

32. Reiterating their commitment to further promotion of interactions between the peoples of Asia and Europe, Leaders underlined that dialogue and cooperation among cultures and civilisations are essential means to prevent and overcome ignorance and prejudice and to promote mutual understanding and tolerance. They reaffirmed their determination to respect, protect, and promote cultural diversity and the equal dignity of all cultures, and encouraged the implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Leaders approved the Cultural Action Plan adopted in the 2nd ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting in Paris in 2005, encouraging the Ministers, assisted by preparatory work undertaken by the Culture Senior Officials, to meet regularly from now on and welcoming Malaysia's offer to host the 3rd ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting in 2007. Furthermore, Leaders expressed their support for actions to be carried out in Asia in the field of intercultural dialogue, parallel to and in cooperation with the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in 2008, also appreciating the richness and variety of cultural festivals and cultural years in both Asian and European countries.

33. Leaders underlined the importance of the ASEM Interfaith Dialogue in contributing to the creation and reinforcement of an environment conducive to building harmony and understanding within the international community. In this context, they also noted the value of initiatives such as the UN Alliance of Civilisations and the UN Tripartite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace. Leaders

firmly condemned the use of violence in the name of religion, denouncing any stereotyping on the basis of religion and reiterating their determination to stand united in the global efforts to cultivate a culture of peace, to increase mutual respect and to build confidence amongst people of all faiths. Furthermore, Leaders welcomed the outcomes of the Interfaith Dialogue, stressing the importance of translating the shared values of peace, compassion, and tolerance expounded in the Bali Declaration into practical actions. With this in mind, they expressed their support for the implementation of the Larnaca Action Plan.

Asia-Europe Foundation

34. Leaders reaffirmed their support for the role played by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in enhancing dialogue and cooperation between the peoples of Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges, underlining in particular the importance of involving the young and reaching out to civil society. They emphasised the importance of ASEF's flagship programmes in further aligning ASEF activities with ASEM priorities and encouraged ASEF to pursue this orientation. Furthermore they stressed the need to optimise ASEF's capacity in enhancing the visibility of ASEM. Leaders welcomed and endorsed the solution to secure ASEF's long-term financial sustainability as prepared by the ASEM Senior Officials.

The Future of ASEM

35. Leaders agreed that while continuing the process within the framework of three pillars, ASEM should start its second decade by focussing on key policy areas such as strengthening multilateralism and addressing global threats of common concern; globalisation, competitiveness and structural changes in the global economy including finance, labour issues, education and human resource development; health; science and technology including Information and Communication Technology (ICT); sustainable development with special focus on the MDG's, climate change, environment, and energy; and intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue as a means to promote mutual understanding. They adopted the ASEM work programme for 2006-2008 (as annexed) reflecting the important role of ASEM in further developing the comprehensive Asia-Europe relations.

36. Leaders warmly welcomed the two acceding EU Member States Bulgaria and Romania on the European side, as well as India, Mongolia, Pakistan and the ASEAN Secretariat on the Asian side, as from the time of completion of the respective internal procedures by the European and the Asian sides, to participate in the ASEM process. Leaders tasked the next Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Germany in 2007 to report on these internal procedures by the European and Asian

sides and looked forward to the formal celebration of the admission of the new partners at the 2008 ASEM Summit in China.

37. Leaders adopted the Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM and its Annex on Working Methods and Institutional Mechanisms (as annexed). They tasked the Senior Officials to continue policy discussions, and reflect on the possible need to adapt the Asia-Europe Cooperation Framework (AECF) 2000 to the requirements of ASEM's second decade and the new developments in the process.

38. Leaders accepted with gratitude the offer by China to host ASEM7 and looked forward to meeting again on 24-25 October 2008.

Helsinki, Finland
September 11, 2006

Appendix 4

Annex to the Chairman’s Statement: List of ASEM Initiatives (1996-2006)

* Initiatives with no available information are left blank.

I. Political Pillar

No	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
1	ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting	—	1st: Singapore in February 1997 2nd: Berlin, Germany in March 1999 3rd: Beijing, China in May 2001 4th: Madrid, Spain in June 2002 5th: Bali, Indonesia in July 2003 6th: Kildare, Ireland in April 2004 7th: Kyoto, Japan in May 2005	—
2	Asia-Europe Cooperation Framework (AECF)	—	AECF 2000 sets out the vision, principles, objectives, priorities and mechanisms for the ASEM process for the first decade of the new millennium.	Adopted at ASEM II and revised at ASEM III.
3	Asia-Europe Vision Group (AEVG)	Korea	AEVG Report presented to ASEM III.	Adopted at ASEM I.
4	Asia-Europe Forum of Governors of Cities (AEFGC)	Thailand		Adopted at ASEM II.
5	Seminar on Peace and Society Building	The Philippines		Adopted at ASEM II.
6	ASEM Roundtable on Globalization	Korea, Sweden	1st: Seoul, Korea in May 2001 2nd: Malmö, Sweden in March 2003 3rd: Hanoi, Vietnam in October 2004	Adopted at ASEM III.
7	Anti-corruption Initiative	China, United Kingdom	—	Adopted at ASEM III.

No	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
8	Symposium on Law Enforcement Organs' Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crimes	China, Italy	1st: Beijing, China in September 2001	Adopted at ASEM III.
9	ASEM Seminar on Anti-terrorism	China, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Spain	1st: Beijing, China in September 2003 2nd: Berlin, Germany in October 2004 3rd: Semarang, Indonesia in November 2005 4th: Copenhagen, Denmark in June 2006	Adopted at ASEM IV.
10	Asia-Europe Young Political Leaders Forum	China, Denmark	1st: Tianjin, China in November 2005	Adopted at ASEM V.
11	Initiative for Strengthening Cyber Security within the ASEM Region	China, Germany, Korea, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Singapore	1st: Seoul, Korea in June 2005	Adopted at ASEM V.
12	Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP)	—	1st: Strasbourg, France in April 1996 2nd: Manila, Philippines in August 2002 3rd: Hue, Vietnam in March 2004 4th: Helsinki, Finland in May 2006	—
13	ASEM Informal Seminar on Human Rights	France, Sweden	1st: Lund, Sweden in December 1997 2nd: Beijing, China in June 1999 3rd: Paris, France in June 2000 4th: Bali, Indonesia in July 2001 5th: Lund, Sweden in May 2003 6th: Suzhou, China in September 2004 7th: Budapest, Hungary in February 2006	—
14	ASEM Prosecutors-General Conference	China Denmark Indonesia United Kingdom	1st: Shenzhen, China in December 2005	Adopted at FMM VII

Total number of Political Initiatives: 14

II. Economic Pillar

No	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
1	ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting	—	1st: Makuhari, Japan in September 1997 2nd: Berlin, Germany in October 1999 3rd: Hanoi, Vietnam in September 2001 4th: Copenhagen, Denmark in September 2002 5th: Dalian, China in July 2003 6th: Rotterdam, the Netherlands in September 2005	—
2	ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting	Thailand, United Kingdom	1st: Bangkok, Thailand in September 1997 2nd: Frankfurt, Germany in January 1999 3rd: Kobe, Japan in January 2001 4th: Copenhagen, Denmark in July 2002 5th: Bali, Indonesia in July 2003 6th: Tianjin, China in June 2005 7th: Vienna, Austria in April 2006	Adopted at ASEM I.
3	ASEM Environment Ministers' Meeting	China, Germany	1st: Beijing, China in January 2002 2nd: Lecce, Italy in October 2003	Adopted at ASEM III.
4	ASEM Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting	China	1st: Beijing, China in October 1999	Adopted at ASEM II.
5	Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP)	—		Adopted at ASEM II.
6	Investment Promotion Action Plan (IPAP)	—		Adopted at ASEM II.
7	Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF)	—	1st: Paris, France in October 1996 2nd: Bangkok, Thailand in November 1997 3rd: London, United Kingdom in April 1998 4th: Seoul, Korea in October 1999 5th: Vienna, Austria in September 2000 6th: Singapore in October 2001 7th: Copenhagen, Denmark in September 2002 8th: Seoul, Korea in October 2003 9th: Hanoi, Vietnam in October 2004	Adopted at ASEM I.

No	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
8	Asia-Europe Environment Technology Centre (AEETC)	Thailand	Experts' Meeting held 10 times till 2002 and was absorbed into Environment Ministers' Meeting.	Adopted at ASEM I.
9	Studies on the Economic Synergy between Asia and Europe	Japan	A report presented to EMM I.	Adopted at ASEM I.
10	Study Group on Technological Exchange and Cooperation	China	1st: Beijing, China in April 1997	Adopted at ASEM I.
11	Asia-Europe Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) Conference	Italy	1st: Napoli, Italy in February 1998	Adopted at ASEM II.
12	ASEM Connect Electronic Resource Network for SMEs	Singapore	- Preparatory meeting held in Singapore in February 1998. - ASEM Connect was launched at ASEM II.	Adopted at ASEM II.
13	Cooperation on Environment Disasters Preparedness including both Short and Long-Term Programme	United Kingdom		Adopted at ASEM II.
14	ASEM Trust Fund (ATF)	United Kingdom	- The first ATF phase (ATF I) commenced operations in June 1998 and operated until the end of 2002. - ASEM III decided to launch an ATF II.	Adopted at ASEM II.
15	European Financial Expertise (EFEX) Network	EU Commission	EFEX commenced activities in September 1998 and has been fully operational since January 1999.	Adopted at ASEM II.

No	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
16	Asia-Europe Information Technology and Telecommunications Programme (AEITTP)	Thailand	1st: Bangkok, Thailand in May 2001	Adopted at ASEM II, but changed to "Asia-Europe Information and Telecommunications Seminar" at ASEM III.
17	Asia-Europe Management Programme	The Philippines	Asia-Europe Management Programme was launched at the Philippine's Asian Institute of Management.	Adopted at ASEM II.
18	Network of SME Centres	Thailand		Adopted at ASEM II.
19	Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN)	EU Commission, France, Korea, Singapore	1st: Seoul, Korea in May 2001 2nd: Brussels, Belgium in March 2002	Adopted at ASEM III.
20	ASEM Seminar on Digital Opportunity	Japan, Korea, Portugal, Singapore	1st: Tokyo, Japan in March 2001	Adopted at ASEM III.
21	Conference on E-commerce and Logistics	Belgium, Finland, Singapore	1st: Brussels, Belgium in 2001	Adopted at ASEM III.
22	Seminar on Asia-Europe Cooperation in SMEs	Belgium, Thailand		Adopted at ASEM III.
23	WTO Trade Facilitation Conference	EU Commission, Malaysia	1st: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in May 2001	Adopted at ASEM III.
24	Anti-money Laundering Initiative	Thailand, United Kingdom	1st: Bangkok, Thailand in September 2003 2nd: Berlin, Germany in October 2003	Adopted at ASEM III.

No	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
25	Science and Technology Cooperation on Forestry Conservation and Sustainable Development	China, Finland	1st: China in July 2001 2nd: Thailand in April 2002	Adopted at ASEM III.
26	Promoting Business Opportunities in ASEM	Vietnam	A report presented to EMM IV.	Adopted at ASEM III. □
27	Kobe Research Project	Japan	1st: Kobe, Japan in January 2001 2nd: Seoul, Korea in January 2002	Adopted at FMM III.
28	Seminar on ASEM and Changing World Economy	Japan, Spain	1st: Tokyo, Japan in March 2002	
29	ASEM Public Debt Management Forum	Thailand	1st: Chiangmai, Thailand in November 2001 2nd: Copenhagen, Denmark in September 2002 3rd: Seoul, Korea in October 2003 4th: London, UK in December 2005	Adopted at FMM III.
30	ASEM Seminar on Water Resources Management	China, France, Portugal	1st: Changsha, China in June 2002	Adopted at FMM IV.
31	ASEM Co-operation in Training and Technical Assistance in the Banking Sector	—		
32	Promotion of the Exchange of Experiences in Planning and Implementing Fiscal Policies in ASEM	—		Adopted at FMM IV.

No	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
33	Information and Communication Technology Performance Reference Forum	—		Adopted at FMM IV.
34	ASEM Symposium on Multilateral and Regional Economic Relations	Germany, Japan, Singapore	1st: Tokyo, Japan in March 2003	Adopted at ASEM IV.
35	ASEM High-level Conference on Agricultural Cooperation	China	1st: Beijing, China in November 2003	Adopted at ASEM IV.
36	Workshop on Building Market Systems in the Context of Globalization	Germany, Vietnam	Concept paper presented to FMM VI.	Adopted at ASEM IV.
37	ASEM Task Force for Closer Economic Partnership between Asia and Europe	Japan, Spain	1st: Madrid, Spain in May 2003 2nd: Tokyo, Japan in September 2003 3rd: Frankfurt, Germany in November 2003 4th: Bangkok, Thailand in March 2004 - Concluded after presenting a final report to ASEM V.	Adopted at ASEM IV.
38	Round of Consultation on the DDA by WTO Experts	EU Commission		Adopted at ASEM IV.
39	ASEM PPP (Public Private Partnership) Seminar	France, Japan	1st: Tokyo, Japan in May 2004	Organized within the framework of ASEM IPAP.
40	ASEM Symposium on an Iron Silk Road	Finland, Korea	1st: Seoul, Korea in June 2004	Adopted at FMM VI.
41	ASEM Workshop on Urban Forestry	China	1st: Suzhou & Beijing, China in November 2004	Adopted at FMM VI.
42	ASEM Workshop on EU-ASIA S&T Cooperation Clean Technology	EU Commission, Vietnam	1st: Hanoi, Vietnam in November 2004	Adopted at ASEM V.

No	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
43	ASEM Trade and Investment Exposition	Austria, China, Germany, Thailand	1st: Xiamen, China in September 2005	Adopted at ASEM V.
44	ASEM Seminar on Energy	EU Commission, Japan	1st: Tokyo, Japan in January 2006	Adopted at High-level Meeting (EMM VI)
45	ASEM Workshop on Community-Level Actions for Global Environmental Agenda	Japan, Sweden	1st: Tokyo, Japan in February / March 2006	Adopted at FMM VII.
46	The ASEM Ocean Initiative	Indonesia, the Philippines, Portugal	1st: Manila, the Philippines in March 2006	Adopted at FMM VII.
47	Seminar on Labour Relations	The Netherlands	1st: Hague, the Netherlands in October 1998	—
48	ASEM Seminar on International Financial Report Standards (IFRSs)	China, EU Commission	1st: Shanghai, China in March 2006	Adopted at FinMM VI.
49	ASEM Forum and Exposition on Tourist Investment and Cooperation	China	1st: Yantai, China in October 2006	Adopted at the High-level Meeting (EMM VI).
50	ASEM Workshop on Climate Change and Energy Security	China, Finland	1st: Helsinki, Finland in June 2006	Adopted at the Vienna SOM in March 2006.
51	Accounting Issues Workshop	China, United Kingdom	- Workshop held in Shanghai, China in 2005	Held in the framework of FinMM.

Total number of Economic Initiatives: 51

III. Social/Cultural Pillar

No	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
1	ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting	China	1st: Beijing, China in December 2003 2nd: Paris, France in June 2005	Adopted at ASEM IV.
2	ASEM Labour Ministers' Conference	Germany	1st: Berlin, Germany in September 2006	—
3	Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)	France, Singapore	ASEF was established in Singapore in 1997 and has carried out over 300 projects.	Adopted at ASEM I.
4	Asia-Europe University Exchange Programme	Malaysia, Singapore		Adopted at ASEM I.
5	Intellectual Exchange between Asia and Europe	Japan	1st: Paris, France in November 1996 2nd: Ditchley Park, UK in May 1997 3rd: Tokyo, Japan in November 1997	Organized by the Council for Asia-Europe Cooperation (CAEC)
6	Asia-Europe Young Leaders Symposium	Austria, Japan	1st: Miyazaki & Tokyo, Japan in March 1997 2nd: Baden bei Wein, Austria in May 1998 3rd: Gangwon Province & Seoul, Korea in May 1999 4th: Limerick, Ireland in June 2000 5th: Putrajaya, Malaysia in October 2001 6th: Berlin, Germany in June 2002 7th: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in August 2003 8th: The Hague, the Netherlands in November / December 2004	Adopted at ASEM I.
7	Promoting the Welfare of Children including Combating Child Abuse	The Philippines, United Kingdom	1st: Manila, the Philippines in June 1997 2nd: London, UK in October 1998 3rd: Seoul, Korea in May 2000 4th: Guangzhou, China in November 2001 5th: Manila, the Philippines in March 2003	Adopted at ASEM II.

No	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
7	Promoting the Welfare of Children including Combating Child Abuse	The Philippines, United Kingdom	1st: Manila, the Philippines in June 1997 2nd: London, UK in October 1998 3rd: Seoul, Korea in May 2000 4th: Guangzhou, China in November 2001 5th: Manila, the Philippines in March 2003	Adopted at ASEM II.
8	Cooperate in Combating Illicit Drugs	United Kingdom		Adopted at ASEM II.
9	Protection and Promotion on Cultural Heritage in ASEM countries	France, Vietnam	Held 2 times (detailed information not available)	Adopted at ASEM II.
10	Asia-Europe Cooperation in Combining Traditional and Modern Medicine and Treatment for Community Health Care	Vietnam	Held 2 times (detailed information not available)	Adopted at ASEM II.
11	Educational Exchange Initiative	United Kingdom		Adopted at ASEM II.
12	ASEM Education Hubs	Singapore	1st: Fontainebleau, France in November 1999 2nd: Singapore in November 2003	Adopted at FMM II.
13	Seminar on the Roles of State & Market	Denmark, Korea	1st: Copenhagen, Denmark in March 1999	Adopted at ASEM II.
14	Initiative to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children	The Philippines, Sweden, Thailand	1st: Stockholm, Sweden in November 2000 2nd: Bangkok, Thailand in October 2002 3rd: Bangkok, Thailand in September 2003	Adopted at ASEM III.
15	Initiative on HIV/AIDS	Malaysia, United Kingdom		Adopted at ASEM III.

No	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
16	ASEM DUO Fellowship Program	France, Korea, Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat set up in Seoul, Korea in 2001 to facilitate implementation. - Has provided financial support to enhance reciprocal academic exchanges of students, teachers and professors of ASEM member countries. - Denmark joined the program at ASEM IV. - Thailand will join the program at ASEM VI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopted at ASEM III for the period of 2001~2005. - Adopted at ASEM V for another extended period of 2006~2010.
17	Human Resource Development in Information and Communications Technology	The Philippines		Adopted at ASEM III.
18	Seminar on Asia-Europe Cooperation on the Applications of Information	EU Commission, Thailand		Adopted at ASEM III.
19	Overcoming Cultural Nuances: Toward a New Public Management	The Philippines		Adopted at ASEM III.
20	Ministerial Conference on Cooperation for the Management of Migratory Flows Europe-Asia	China, Germany, Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First Meeting was held in Lanzarote, Spain in April 2002 at Minister level. - Following meetings were held 4 times at DG level. 	Adopted at ASEM III.
21	Lifelong Learning	Denmark, Ireland, Malaysia, Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st: Denmark and Singapore in 2002 A report presented to ASEM VI. 	Adopted at FMM III.

No	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
22	Promotion of ASEM Tourism Cooperation for Hunger Eradication, Poverty Elimination, and Enhancing Prosperity			—
23	ASEM Information Board	—	ASEM Infoboard website established and run by ASEF.	—
24	Asia-Europe Cooperation on Promoting Awareness in the Young Generation of the Drug Problem	China, Thailand, United Kingdom		Adopted at ASEM IV.
25	ASEM Symposium on Educational Exchange	EU Commission, Ireland, Japan, Singapore	1st: Tsukuba, Japan in November 2003	Adopted at ASEM IV.
26	ASEM Youth Games	Thailand	1st: Bangkok, Thailand in June 2005	Adopted at ASEM IV.
27	ASEM Workshop on the Future of Employment and the Quality of Labour	China, Germany, Ireland, Spain	3 workshops held. (detailed information not available)	Adopted at ASEM IV.
28	Human Rights Education, Manual on Understanding Human Rights	Austria		—
29	ASEM Seminar on the Management of Public Health Emergency	China	1st: Beijing, China in October 2003	Adopted at FMM V.

No	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
30	ASEM Cooperation on HIV/AIDS Control	The Netherlands, the Philippines, Sweden, Vietnam	1st: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in November 2005	Adopted at ASEM V.
31	ASEM Seminar on Health Quarantine Cooperation to Prevent and Control Communicable Diseases	Vietnam		Adopted at ASEM V.
32	ASEM Cooperation in the Applications of ICT in Human Resource Development and Capacity Building	Brunei Darussalam, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Sweden, Vietnam	1st: Ha long, Vietnam in June 2006	Adopted at ASEM V.
33	ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning	Denmark, Sweden, Thailand		Adopted at ASEM V.
34	The Inter-Faith Dialogue	Indonesia, United Kingdom	1st: Bali, Indonesia in July 2005 2nd: Larnaca, Cyprus in July 2006	Adopted at ASEM V.
35	Meeting of Environment Officials and Technology Transfer Centres	—	1st: Dusseldorf, Germany in March 1998	—
36	Asia-Europe Centre/Asia-Europe Institute	Malaysia	Asia-Europe Centre was established in 1997 and upgraded to Asia-Europe Institute.	—
37	Collaborative Research Program on Networking	The Philippines		Adopted at ASEM III.

No	Name of Initiative	Proponent	Status	Remarks
38	Project for a Euro-Asian Network for the Monitoring and Control of Communicable Diseases	France		Adopted at ASEM III.
39	ASEM Meeting of General Directors and Experts in the Field of Vocational Education and Training - "Strengthening Human Resources through VET"	Germany	1st: Berlin, Germany in February 2006	
40	A Report on the "Ten Years of ASEM"	Finland, Japan	- A final report was submitted to the Vienna SOM in March 2006.	Adopted at FMM VII.
41	An Overview Report on ASEM Initiatives	Korea	- A final report was submitted to the Vienna SOM in March 2006.	

Total number of Social/Cultural Initiatives: 41

**Attachment:
ASEM TFAP& IPAP Initiatives**

I. ASEM Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP)

No	Name of Initiative	Status
1	Meeting on eCommerce	1st : Korea in October 2001 2nd : Finland in September 2002 3rd : Korea in October 2003 4th : United Kingdom in February 2005 5th : China in November 2006
2	Customs DG-Commissioner Meeting	1st : China in June 1996 2nd : Austria in June 1997 3rd : Belgium in June 1999 4th : Sweden in July 2001 5th : Korea in September 2003 6th : Scotland in June 2005
3	Customs Procedures Working Group (PWG) Meeting	1st : Belgium in March 1997 2nd : Belgium in March 1998 3rd : Philippines in February 1999 4th : Belgium in April 2000 5th : Thailand in April 2001 6th : Belgium in March 2002 7th : Indonesia in December 2003 8th : Singapore in April 2005
4	Customs Enforcement Working Group (EWG) Meeting	1st : Belgium in February 1997 2nd : Belgium in February 1998 3rd : Belgium in February 1999 4th : Belgium in February 2000 5th : Belgium in March 2001 6th : Malaysia in February 2002 7th : Malaysia in March 2003 8th : Belgium in May 2005 9th : Korea in April 2006
5	Working Group on Intellectual Property	1st : France in June 1996 2nd : Thailand in March 2000 3rd : Vietnam in May 2002 - Seminar on Geographical Indications held in Thailand in June 2006

No	Name of Initiative	Status
6	Meeting on Standards and Conformity Assessment (SCA)	1st : Belgium in September 1998 2nd : Korea in March 1999 3rd : Belgium in October 1999 4th : Thailand in February 2000 5th : Belgium in October 2000 6th : Belgium in November 2001 7th : China in April 2002 8th : Belgium in December 2002 9th : Vietnam in December 2003 10th : Belgium in April 2004 11th : Japan in February 2005 12th : Austria in May 2006
7	Seminar on Government Procurement	1st : Germany in September 1999 2nd : Japan in March 2001
8	Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures	1st : Thailand in February 1999 2nd : China in September 1999 3rd : Netherlands in September 2000 4th : Netherlands in June 2002 5th : Switzerland in April 2003

II. ASEM Investment Promotion Action Plan (IPAP)

No	Name of Initiative	Status
1	Investment Experts Group (IEG)	1st : France in November 1998 2nd : Singapore in February 1999 3rd : Belgium in June 1999 4th : Korea in May 2000 5th : Belgium in July 2001 6th : Indonesia in July 2002 7th : France in June 2003

Appendix 5

Annex to the Chairman’s Statement: Calendar of ASEM Events 2006–2008

2006	Venue	Date
ASEM Energy Efficiency Seminar	Tokyo, Japan	17 Jan 2006
Asian ASEM SOM and ASEM Coordinators’ Meeting	Jeju Island, Korea	20-21Jan 2006
Strengthening Human Resources through Vocational Education Training	Berlin, Germany	13-14 Feb 2006
7 th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights	Budapest, Hungary	23-24 Feb 2006
ASEM Workshop on Community-Level Actions for Global Environmental Agenda	Tokyo, Japan	27 Feb-3 Mar 2006
ASEM SOM	Vienna, Austria	8 March 2006
ASEM Finance Deputies	Vienna, Austria	10 March 2006
ASEM IFRSs SEMINAR (follow-up Tianjin Initiative)	Shanghai, China	25-26 March 2006
1 st ASEM Oceans Initiative Meeting	Manila, Philippines	29-31 March 2006
7 th ASEM Finance Ministers’ Meeting	Vienna, Austria	8-9 April 2006
International Conference on Customs Protection and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Right	Seoul, Republic of Korea	19 April 2006
9 th ASEM Customs Enforcement Working Group (EWG)	Seoul, Republic of Korea	20-21 April 2006
ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning Research Seminar and follow-up meeting	Bangkok, Thailand	1-6 May 2006
ASEP IV (Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership) Meeting	Helsinki, Finland	4-5 May 2006
1 st ASEM Seminar on Tourism	Lisboa, Portugal	8 May 2006
ASEM Seminar on Automobile Construction Regulations	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	8-9 May 2006
ASEM Coordinators’ Meeting and Open-ended Working Group Meeting	Singapore	21-22 May 2006
ASEM/TFAP Meeting on Standards and Conformity Assessment (SCA)	Vienna, Austria	21-23 May 2006

2006	Venue	Date
Preparatory Meeting of the 1 st ASEM Labour Ministers' Conference	Geneva, Switzerland	1 June 2006
Climate Change and Energy Security Initiative: the Role of ASEM in Facilitating Cooperation between Europe and Asia	Helsinki, Finland	8 June 2006
Preparatory meeting for the ASEM ICT Ministerial Meeting	Ha Long, Vietnam	8-9 June 2006
ASEM SOM and ASEM Coordinators' meeting	Hämeenlinna, Finland	18-19 June 2006
4 th ASEM Counter-Terrorism Conference	Copenhagen, Denmark	26-27 June 2006
ASEM Working Group on Intellectual Property Protection: Seminar on geographical indication	Bangkok, Thailand	30 June 2006
2 nd ASEM Interfaith Dialogue	Larnaca, Cyprus	3-5 July 2006
1 st ASEM Employment and Labour Ministers' Conference	Potsdam, Germany	3-5 Sep 2006
ASEM SOM	Helsinki, Finland	9 September 2006
6 th ASEM Summit (ASEM6)	Helsinki, Finland	10-11 Sep 2006
The ASEM Diplomatic Academies Network	Jachranka, Poland	27-30 Sept 2006
ASEM Forum and Exhibition on Tourism Investment and Cooperation	Yantai, China	19-22 Oct 2006
5 th ASEM Conference on e-commerce	Jiaxing, China	2-3 Nov 2006
ASEM ICT Ministerial Meeting (High-Level Conference on the Applications of ICT in Human Resources Development and Capacity Building)	Hanoi, Vietnam	30 Nov-1 Dec 2006
5 th ASEM Meeting for Directors General on Management of Migratory Flows between Asia and Europe	Kuopio, Finland	11-12 Dec 2006
7 th Economic Ministers' Meeting (EMM7)	tbc	tbc

2007

	Venue	Date
ASEF Young Parliamentarians' Meeting	The Hague, Netherlands	Last week of Feb 2007
2 nd HIV/Aids Workshop	Sweden	Spring 2007 (tbc)
ASEM Environment Ministers' Meeting	Denmark	March 2007 (tbc)
ASEM Seminar on United Nations Technical Work in the Field of Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations initiative	France	March 2007 (tbc)
8 th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting	Hamburg, Germany	28-29 May 2007
ASEM Finance Deputies' Meeting	Korea	tbc
5 th ASEM Counter-Terrorism Conference	Tokyo, Japan	tbc
3 rd ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	June 2007 (tbc)
ASEM Workshop on Avian Influenza Control	Beijing, China	Latter half of 2007
1 st ASEM Forum on Energy Security Policy	Hanoi, Vietnam	Third quarter of 2007
ASEM Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Ministerial Meeting and Trade and Investment Fair	Beijing / Qingdao, China	Mid / late Oct 2007
3 rd ASEM Interfaith Dialogue	China	tbc
6 th ASEM Immigration Directors' Meeting	Seoul, Korea	21-26 Nov 2007
ASEM Initiative on Harmonization of Biofuels Standards and Application to Vehicle Technologies	Philippines	2007 (tbc)

2008

	Venue	Date
ASEM Finance Deputies' Meeting	Korea	tbc
8 th ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting	Korea	tbc
ASEM Forum on Rural Development	Beijing, China	First half on 2008
ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting	Germany	tbc
Biennial Report Booklet on ASEM Trade and Investment	Vietnam	Prior to the ASEM 7 Summit
ASEM 7 Summit	Beijing, China	24 Oct 2008
4 th ASEM Interfaith Dialogue	Amsterdam, Netherlands	Early Summer 2008
2 nd ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers' Conference	Indonesia	2008

Appendix 6

ASEM6 Declaration on Climate Change

We, Heads of State and Government from thirteen Asian nations, twenty-five European nations and the President of the European Commission, gathered in Helsinki on 10 and 11 September 2006 for the 6th Asia-Europe Meeting,

- Recognising that climate change poses a serious threat to sustainable development and to the future of our planet;
- Concerned of the increasing scientific evidence of the adverse impacts of climate change and the risk of increase of sea level rise, frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and other adverse impacts of climate change;
- Underlining the ultimate objective and principles and commitments of the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and our commitment to their full implementation;
- Acknowledging that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation and participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with the principles of the Convention, and recognising that ASEM partners have a crucial role in shaping and forging long-term policies as well as immediate actions for mitigation and adaptation measures;
- Recognising the legitimate priority needs of developing countries for the achievement of sustainable economic growth and eradication of poverty;
- and building on the results of ASEM5;
- Bearing in mind that a key priority of ASEM is to take forward the dialogue on global issues of common concern, and that cooperation under this partnership is without prejudice to the outcome of the discussions on climate change in other fora; Decide to issue the following declaration:

The Need for International Action

1. We are committed to act with resolve and urgency to meet interrelated multiple goals of addressing climate change, reducing air pollution and improving the global environment while contributing to sustainable development and synergies with energy policy goals.

2. Acknowledging that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation and participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with the principles of the Convention, we are determined to respond to climate change through international cooperation, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective ca-

pabilities, with a view to achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention. We pledge to work together to improve access to sustainable energy services in order to facilitate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

3. Noting that ASEM countries are Parties to the Convention and its Protocol, we are determined to implement our commitments under the Convention and its Protocol. We acknowledge the actions that are being implemented and planned by Annex I ASEM Parties in order to meet their UNFCCC and Kyoto commitments. We appreciate the important policies, programmes and measures implemented voluntarily in Non-Annex I ASEM Parties to achieve sustainable development, which have contributed to mitigating climate change. We will cooperate to further implement the Convention and its Protocol including through strengthening the capacity of and providing financial and technical assistance to ASEM developing countries in accordance with relevant provisions of the Convention and its Protocol.

4. We reaffirm that the Convention and its Protocol provide the appropriate international framework to develop further actions against climate change. We welcome the outcome of the Montreal climate conferences and are determined to work for success in Nairobi and at other forthcoming UNFCCC conferences. We are committed to cooperating further to advance the Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change under the Convention, as this provides important opportunities to enhance the implementation of the Convention and to exchange experiences and analyse strategic approaches to address climate change. We are committed to ensuring a successful outcome of our discussions on further commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol while securing that there is no gap between the first and the second commitment periods. We also look forward to a successful outcome of the review of the Protocol to be initiated at the Nairobi climate conference.

Harnessing Technology and Investments for Climate-Friendly Solutions

5. We recognise that climate change and security of energy supply are interrelated. We foresee that very significant resources, an estimated USD 6,3 trillion, will be invested in the energy sector in ASEM countries by 2030 and see this as a challenge but also as an opportunity. We will cooperate to promote development, transfer and deployment of low carbon technology and access by developing ASEM countries to cleaner and climate friendly technologies, without overlooking any relevant option, be it existing or new. We are committed to enhancing energy efficiency and scaling up the use of new and renewable energy, adapted to local circumstances. We also emphasise that in the longer term technological breakthroughs will be required, welcoming that further possibilities are being

explored. We value existing bilateral, regional, and global partnerships and look forward to further enhancement of broad international collaboration in research, development, transfer, and deployment of climate-friendly technologies.

6. Encouraged by existing win-win opportunities of environmentally sound investments, we underscore the need to integrate climate concerns into national sustainable development policies, strategies and programmes. We will work with international financing and development cooperation institutions to encourage innovative financing options to stimulate investment in clean energy and development.

7. We stress that market-based mechanisms have a great potential to help transfer, deployment and diffusion of climate-friendly solutions and technology, the Clean Development Mechanism as well as emissions trading and Joint Implementation being examples of such mechanisms. We share the common recognition that the implementation of the Kyoto mechanisms should be enhanced with a view to making full use of their potential to contribute to achieving the goals of the Climate Convention, and that future use of the Kyoto mechanisms should build on this experience and be reformed in the light of the architecture of the future framework.

Adaptation and other Climate Change Related Challenges

8. Bearing in mind that all countries are vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, we underline the importance of adaptation. We welcome increased international attention to this vulnerability and to the need for adaptation to climate change for developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries. We call upon incorporating climate risks and adaptation strategies into national development strategies and policies, and we will foster international cooperation that can help assess impacts and vulnerabilities, build adaptive capacities, and support adaptation actions.

9. We commit ourselves to strengthening cooperation among ASEM partners to exchange information and early warnings on natural disasters, including those that arise from climate change.

10. We stress the need to complement climate change policies with actions to combat deforestation and note the Chairman's Statements on illegal logging at earlier ASEM meetings. We also emphasise the need for the sustainable management of forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems. In this context, we take note of the Manila Vision and Action Plan, adopted at the meeting of the ASEM Oceans Initiative.

ASEM Way Forward

11. We confirm the commitment to intensify our cooperation to combat climate change, recognising ASEM's capacity and valuable role in enhancing international cooperation through dialogue in the context of different multilateral fora, and we encourage the further strengthening of ASEM's role in this respect. We will continue to engage in international dialogue with a view to reaching an understanding on further global action to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations, based on common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

12. We underline the importance of the wide range of ASEM initiatives in pursuing sustainable development, and support the development of possible cooperation and activities among ASEM partners in support of the implementation of this declaration. We invite the ASEM Ministers dealing with climate change related policies to carry on the dialogue on climate change in support of implementing the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, including through discussions at ASEM Environment Ministers' Meetings.

Appendix 7

Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM

We, Heads of State and Government from thirteen Asian and twenty-five European nations and the President of the European Commission, gathered in Helsinki on 10 and 11 September 2006 for the 6th Asia-Europe Meeting,

- Recognising the growing weight of Asia and Europe in the global economy and the increased economic interdependence between our regions, as well as the dramatic growth of Asia-Europe relations in all fields since ASEM's establishment;
- Recalling the landmark inaugural meeting held in Bangkok in 1996;
- Conscious that the first decade of our partnership has resulted in broadened political dialogue, stronger economic relations, deeper cultural exchanges, and has given rise to more than one hundred collaborative initiatives;
- Reaffirming our resolve on the tenth anniversary of the Asia-Europe Meeting to take the process forward;
- Commending the open and evolutionary nature of the ASEM process, and underlining that a widening as well as deepening of the partnership significantly enhances and consolidates the process and increases its global visibility;
- Mindful of ASEM's vocation to be a framework for fostering the Asia-Europe comprehensive partnership in the 21st century, as emphasised at the 2004 ASEM 5 Summit in Hanoi;

Commit to the following guiding principles in order to lead ASEM successfully into its second decade.

Deepening the partnership - Facing future challenges

1. We emphasise ASEM's continuing vital role as a framework for dialogue and cooperation, serving as a prime point of convergence between Europe and Asia. We reiterate our commitment, in accordance with the Asia-Europe Cooperation Framework (AECF) 2000, to maintaining and enhancing peace and stability as well as to promoting conditions conducive to sustainable economic and social development through ASEM.

2. We reconfirm ASEM's mission as a partnership between equals committed to multilateralism and a fair, just and rule-based international order with a strong UN at the core. With a view to achieving optimal results it is important that ASEM reflects the combined weight of Asia and Europe in order to promote effective multilateralism, and that it focuses on issues in which the ASEM framework can

add value to ongoing processes in other multilateral frameworks. ASEM offers the partners a unique chance to continue to build common ground with a view to strengthening multilateral cooperation. ASEM enables Asia and Europe to reap the benefits of globalisation, tackle the challenges posed by growing global interdependence, and contribute to the well-being of present and future generations. In this respect we acknowledge the importance of the implementation of the decisions taken at the UN Summit in 2005 including the realisation of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

3. We reassert ASEM's role as a catalyst in the broader context of EU-Asia relations, as a means to implement action-oriented initiatives which synchronise with other relevant cooperation at the regional, sub-regional and bilateral levels. As cooperation and regional integration represent a major contribution to peace, security and welfare, we emphasise ASEM's potential for reinforcing regional identities and processes of community-building.

Defining broad perspectives - Marking out focussed areas for action

4. We underline that ASEM will build on its strengths and accomplishments, in particular the multidimensional dialogue and cooperation on political, economic, as well as social, cultural and educational issues. ASEM will commence its second decade by focussing on key policy areas such as strengthening multilateralism and addressing global threats of common concern; globalisation, competitiveness and structural changes in the global economy, including labour issues, education and human resource development; health; science and technology including Information and Communication Technology (ICT); sustainable development with special focus on the MDGs, climate change, environment, and energy; and intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue as a means to promote mutual understanding. In addition we reaffirm our commitment to deepening the economic and financial cooperation between the two regions through constructive policy dialogues and action-oriented programmes.

5. We emphasise that ASEM will address such policy areas while remaining faithful to its character of informality, networking and flexibility. ASEM will continue to offer the opportunity for informal dialogue on topical priority issues at the level of Heads of State and Government, following but also shaping the international policy agenda, in order to define joint responses to global challenges. We underline that ASEM will further promote focussed cooperative initiatives linked to this policy dialogue, which maintain the momentum from one summit to the next. These initiatives may involve other relevant stakeholders, including the social partners and civil society.

Reinforcing institutional mechanisms - Forging a stronger partnership

6. While reaffirming the validity of the principles of the Asia-Europe Cooperation Framework, we recognise the need to strengthen ASEM's instruments for dialogue and cooperative initiatives to accompany the deepening and widening of the process and to enhance efforts to achieve results through action-oriented initiatives. The ASEM Virtual Secretariat will be a key tool to that end, as it will ensure more interaction among partners and expand stocktaking and sharing of information.

7. We endorse the appended recommendations for improved working methods and institutional mechanisms in order to steer the process into its second decade. These proposals build on the course of action, initiated at the Hanoi summit and carried forward by the Seventh Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kyoto, aiming to substantiate the ASEM process. In addition the Evaluation Report on Ten Years of ASEM commissioned by the Finnish and Japanese Governments, and the Overview Report on ASEM Initiatives prepared by the Republic of Korea provided valuable contributions.

8. We welcome the decision on ASEM enlargement taken at the Helsinki Summit, which underlines the inclusive character of the process and highlights the key role that ASEM plays in the international framework. We emphasise that ASEM's expansion provides greater dynamism, enhances dialogue and cooperation, and makes the Asia-Europe partnership better equipped to tackle present and future global challenges.

Annex to "Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM": ASEM Working Methods and Institutional Mechanisms

The tenth anniversary of the Asia-Europe Meeting is an excellent opportunity to take stock of past achievements, take the process forward and enhance its internal working methods. Taking into account ASEM's ten-year legacy and building on the AECF 2000 as well as previous recommendations for ASEM's working methods and future course made by the ASEM5 summit in Hanoi (2004) and by the Foreign Ministers' Meetings in Madrid (2002), Kildare (2004) and Kyoto (2005), the following guidelines are designed to implement the principles agreed upon by the Heads of State and Government and the President of the European Commission, and ensure a smoother overall management, increase the continuity of the process, and enhance the efficient and effective administration of initiatives.

I. Areas of Asia-Europe cooperation

1. Addressing clustered issues and initiatives, and providing political guidance

While maintaining its three-pillar structure, ASEM should seek to address cross-dimensional linkages between political, economic, and social/cultural issues in order to tackle effectively the challenges posed by globalisation and growing global interdependence. These clusters of related issues and projects should support the overall priorities in the core areas of substantive cooperation, as defined by the Heads of State and Government on the occasion of ASEM Summits, and as reflected in two-year work programmes. Political guidance is vital in order to identify the key priority clusters based on the three pillars of cooperation for the next summit. The ASEM Summits and Foreign Ministers' Meetings should determine, review and update the orientations for the relevance of the clusters according to the changes in the international arena.

2. Recognising issue-based leadership

Taking into account that ASEM is a forum of equal partners and that decision-making is by consensus, leadership should be issue-based. Without prejudice to the role of Coordinators, countries can take the lead in sectors and on issues in which they have a particular interest and expertise. Building on existing cooperation patterns, a mechanism revolving around a number of co-sponsoring countries willing to drive projects and initiatives in a certain policy area can produce tangible benefits for all. The ASEM Virtual Secretariat, e-mail networks and preparatory meetings in the margins of the SOM can function as tools for coordination. The SOM will review the progress achieved, and provide guidance if and when necessary.

The implementation of initiatives with a clear direction and a mid- to long-term vision relevant to ASEM's evolving priorities, as well as their systematic and efficient monitoring based on issue-specific leadership, is important in order to maintain the momentum from one summit to the next. This goal can be advanced by the development of Sectoral and Thematic Dialogue Facilities following the call by the 7th Finance Ministers' Meeting to explore possibilities for the creation of a new instrument pertaining in particular to policy dialogue and capacity building through ASEM channels. Such Dialogue Facilities could provide expertise and support to drive the dialogue and carry out tasks relating to monitoring, reviewing and reporting to ensure the necessary continuity and follow-up. The establishment of the ASEM Contingency Dialogue Mechanism for Emergent Economic and Financial Events, already agreed upon by the Finance Ministers' Meeting and part of the Tianjin Initiative on Closer ASEM Economic and Financial Cooperation, is another example of a concrete initiative which aims to strengthen ASEM's capacity-building.

II. Steering and coordination of the process

While issue-based leadership is encouraged as a prime instrument to drive the process, the need for smooth overall steering, coordination, and management mechanisms remains.

1. Overall coordination

The summits play a pivotal role as platforms to provide political guidance and as benchmarks for progress achieved in the ASEM process, whereas Foreign Ministers are responsible for the steering and ASEM SOM for the overall coordination of the process. The partners should recognise the importance of Ministerial Meetings to the ASEM process and continually strive to increase their effectiveness and efficiency.

In the area of trade and investment promotion between the two regions the SOMTI already functions as an ASEM cornerstone and a well-established coordinating mechanism. In the area of financial cooperation, Finance Deputies perform a similar function. Given the new cooperative initiatives in areas such as culture, environment, energy, health, science and technology, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and labour and employment, the establishment of additional sectoral SOM related to these fields can be taken into consideration as and when needed.

2. Role of the ASEM Coordinators and the hosts of next summits and FMM

Current coordination mechanisms comprise the ASEM Coordinators appointed by their respective regions. The European Commission and the EU Presidency are the European Coordinators, while on the Asian side the Coordinators alternate every two years and are composed of one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN partner. Supported by the ASEM Contact Points, the Coordinators facilitate the overall coordination of the process, and act as communication channels in their respective regions.

In order to deepen regional coordination, the role of Coordinators should be strengthened by establishing a regular meeting schedule, and by standardising the holding of meetings ahead of Ministerials to complement the role of the SOM. Also ministerial-level Coordinators' meetings could be considered, when necessary, to enhance the development of policy orientations.

Taking into account the deepening and widening of the process, the central role of the hosts of the next summit and Foreign Ministers' Meeting should be recognised, while ensuring that the geographic balance of the Coordinators' group is maintained. Enhancing the function of the next host(s) can add continuity to the coordination, and facilitate and complement the leading role of the Coordinators' group.

3. The ASEM Virtual Secretariat (AVS)

The ASEM Virtual Secretariat will function as ASEM's coordination and information-sharing device, offering technical assistance to the Coordinators. It will facilitate the management of the agenda and working programme (for example, the circulation of updated versions, collections/reminders of ASEM-initiatives and the dissemination of their results) and enhance its institutional memory. The AVS supports the roles of the ASEM Coordinators, operates as a closed intranet system and combines mailing, document and notification posting, a bulletin board system (BBS) for exchange-of-opinions, and archival functions.

4. Regular contacts between ASEM embassies

In order to reinforce the coordination between ASEM partners, regular contacts between embassies/permanent representations, for example in Brussels, the EU headquarters, and Jakarta, the location of the ASEAN secretariat, or Beijing, the host of the next Summit, can enhance the channelling and sharing of information on the ground, facilitating the tasks and duties of the Coordinators.

III. Visibility, public awareness, and links with stakeholders

In order to achieve greater visibility and promote general awareness of the ASEM process, a public communication strategy to disseminate the results of ASEM summits, other meetings and initiatives, should be developed and implemented as a matter of priority.

Foreign Ministries of ASEM partners are invited to create an ASEM page on their website, including links to ASEF, the ASEM Infoboard, and other relevant sites, in order to ensure easy access to ASEM-related information.

The role of the Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF) is important in shaping the agenda and improving interaction with the business sector through consultation. A closer involvement of parliaments, academia and civil society in the broad sense will furthermore greatly contribute to a stronger feeling of ownership and enhance the visibility and awareness of ASEM among the wider public. The Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP), the Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF), and the different stakeholders of civil society can play an important part in developing the outreach.

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) continues to play a key role in further developing the interlinkages between the Asia-Europe cooperation and the different civil society actors. While continuing to align ASEF with the ASEM process, the partners are encouraged to consider the recommendations resulting from seminars co-organised by ASEF. Furthermore, with a view to sustaining and increasing public interest and support for the ASEM process, ASEF should persist in exploring new ways to effectively attract public attention to ASEM initiatives and ensure media attention.

Appendix 8

The first letter of invitation from the Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen to his colleagues

(8 May 2006)

Your Excellency,

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to attend the sixth Asia-Europe Summit Meeting to be held in Helsinki on 10-11 September 2006. The Helsinki Summit will mark a special milestone for Asia-Europe relations as it celebrates the 10th anniversary of the ASEM cooperation process. Thus, it gives us an outstanding opportunity to take stock of past experiences, to reflect on the present, and to discuss our visions for the future in an open and informal atmosphere.

In an increasingly globalised world characterised by ever more interaction and interdependency it has become clear that the most successful future paths are the ones that we choose together, be it in the field of security, economy, environment, or some other area of human activity. ASEM6 provides us, the Heads of State and Government of Asia and Europe, an excellent forum to engage in a multidimensional dialogue in order to promote mutual understanding between our regions and to find mutually beneficial answers to regionally and globally important questions. Therefore, reflecting our joint objectives and the global developments that will comprise the broad frames for our discussions the overarching theme of the Summit will be *10 Years of ASEM: Global Challenges - Joint Responses*.

Our deliberations in the Summit will revolve around topical issues of the international agenda. Such topics include, among others: support for the multi-lateral international system; addressing security threats including global health threats such as avian flu; questions related to energy security; international efforts to mitigate climate change and the means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; the ambition to reach a successful conclusion of the negotiations on the WTO Doha Development Agenda; questions relating to globalisation, competitiveness and structural changes in the global economy; intercultural dialogue as a means to promote mutual understanding.

The 10th anniversary of ASEM will be highlighted in a special opening session, and a forward looking perspective will be a cross-cutting theme throughout the Summit. In addition, our aim is to adopt a Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM.

Regarding the working methods of the Summit, three fully fledged plenary sessions will be held, each one devoted to one of the three pillars of ASEM cooperation. Moreover, a retreat style working dinner and a working luncheon will take place. The discussion in each plenary session will be further substantiated

and structured by involving the use of Asian and European key note speeches to be invited by the Summit host in consultation with the coordinators. You are most welcome, should you so wish, to present your preliminary preferences regarding a key note speech focusing on some specific area of ASEM-cooperation through our Senior Officials.

A more detailed proposal of the Summit agenda, including the invitations to address a particular issue as a key note speaker, will be sent in July.

Your spouse is most welcome to accompany you to Helsinki and to attend the opening and closing ceremonies as well as other social events of the Summit. Furthermore, there will be additional programme for accompanying spouses.

I am confident that our proceedings in ASEM6 will successfully guide this valuable Asia-Europe cooperation process to its second decade. I am equally confident that you will enjoy your stay in Helsinki, a gateway city between Asia and Europe combining state-of-the-art technological applications with the natural beauty of the Baltic Sea environment.

I warmly welcome Your Excellency to Helsinki and very much look forward to meeting you in ASEM6.

Sincerely Yours,

Matti Vanhanen

Appendix 9

The second letter of invitation from the Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen to his colleagues

(19 July 2006)

Your Excellency,

Thank you very much for accepting my invitation to attend the Sixth Asia-Europe Meeting in Helsinki on 10-11 September 2006. I would like to take the opportunity to outline in more detail how we expect the Summit to proceed and how our deliberations will reflect the overarching theme of "10 Years of ASEM: Global Challenges – Joint Responses".

The Opening Ceremony on Sunday 10 September will place ASEM's tenth anniversary in the spotlight. The four current ASEM Coordinators and the host of ASEM5 are scheduled to deliver opening addresses. After the ceremony we will gather for the traditional family photograph.

Asian and European lead presentations will set the scene for our discussions in each plenary session, while also leaving ample possibility for free, open, and informal debate.

The first plenary session will focus on political dialogue, and will allow us to have an in-depth exchange of views on topical issues on the global agenda. I assume that our discussions will underline the need to strengthen multilateralism with the UN at its core, and that we will also address broad security issues. In this context we could elaborate on the fight against international terrorism, transnational crime, and global threats to health such as communicable diseases and HIV/AIDS. We may also touch upon multilateral and regional security cooperation.

On Sunday evening we will have a working dinner at the Presidential Palace. This will take place in retreat-style, which has proven a successful and much appreciated format at previous summits. I propose that during the dinner we address, *inter alia*, recent regional developments. There will be no fixed agenda or predetermined lead speakers, but I would appreciate it very much if you could notify us in advance of any specific issue you would be interested in raising.

The second session, taking place on Monday morning, will be devoted to the broad and multidimensional theme of "Dialogue among Cultures and Civilisations". I think we all share the view that enhancing interaction based on equality and respect between the peoples of Asia and Europe promotes mutual understanding and fosters international peace and security. ASEM offers a valuable framework to take a comprehensive approach and promote closer cooperation with a view to enhancing intercultural dialogue and awareness between our two regions. During the session we could elaborate on issues such as intercultural

and interfaith dialogue, cooperation in education, and the promotion of cultural diversity.

To conclude this session, Mr. Paavo Lipponen, President of ASEP4 and Speaker of the Parliament of Finland, will convey a message from the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting.

For the ensuing working luncheon, the proposed theme is "Sustainable Development, including Environment and Energy Security". Energy and climate change are topics that have been high on the global agenda, and I am convinced that our deliberations can add an important dimension to the international debate. I therefore suggest that our discussion concentrates on the diverse aspects of enhancing energy security, and its synergies with addressing environmental concerns. In order to express our firm commitment in support of international cooperation and dialogue on climate change, we will have the opportunity to adopt a joint Declaration on Climate Change.

The meeting will resume in the afternoon with a third closed session devoted to other questions related to ASEM's economic pillar, under the title "Globalisation and Competitiveness". In line with previous summits, I have invited the Chairman of the Tenth Asia-Europe Business Forum, Mr. Christoffer Taxell, to address the plenary in order to present the views of the business community and the recommendations of the AEBF. Our ensuing discussions could explore ways to address structural changes in the global economy in order to benefit from and tackle the challenges posed by globalisation. We can furthermore exchange views on the WTO negotiations, the results of the First ASEM Ministers of Labour Meeting, and the roles of innovation and science and technology as ways to promote competitiveness.

By way of highlighting ASEM's anniversary and the forward-looking perspective of the Summit, I suggest wrapping up our deliberations with a session devoted to "The Future of ASEM". In this short final session we could formally adopt a Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM in order to set the guiding principles for cooperation in the coming decade.

The celebratory theme of the Summit will also be reflected in the Closing Ceremony. We will conclude the Summit with a Coordinators' press conference.

The ASEM6 Summit will offer us the opportunity to discuss how Asia and Europe can join forces and find common solutions to today's challenges and threats. I am confident that our gathering will further strengthen the comprehensive Asia-Europe partnership. Finland, as host of the Summit, will do its utmost to ensure a suitable framework and an atmosphere befitting the spirit of the ASEM process in order to contribute to achieving that goal.

I very much look forward to welcoming you to Helsinki.

Sincerely Yours,

Matti Vanhanen

Appendix 10

Opening remarks by the President of the Republic of Finland Tarja Halonen

It is my great pleasure to address you today and to welcome you to Finland and to the Sixth ASEM Summit. For us Finns, it is a great honour to host this important event. The ASEM Summit is in fact the largest international meeting ever organised in Finland. But the Summit is not only very special for us but also for ASEM as such. At this meeting, we will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Asia-Europe partnership.

Due to its geographic location, Finland is sometimes called a gateway between Europe and Asia. Therefore, we feel that our country provides a suitable location for this anniversary Summit. As President of the Republic of Finland, I hope that despite of your busy schedules you will have time to get to know our Northern country a little bit better.

The Finnish system – the so-called Nordic welfare society model – is based on solid democracy, shared responsibility and social justice. Sound economic development is decisive – but I believe that for Finland's success it has also been crucially important that we have applied policies and measures, which are effective, just and alleviate the polarization in society. In addition, we consider that gender equality contributes to competitiveness. Gender equality enables both women and men to fully participate in developing the society and economy.

I have a lot of good personal memories of previous ASEM meetings. As Foreign Minister, I participated in the very first meeting in Bangkok in 1996. At that meeting, we were still a bit shy to communicate with each other and just taking our first steps in our contacts. But the meeting was a success and paved the way for today's deep and truly open co-operation. In ten years, ASEM has become a central forum for co-operation and dialogue between Asian and European countries.

We can be pleased with the achievements. The Asia-Europe partnership has widened as well as strengthened in many ways. Originally, there were 26 partners; today ASEM has expanded to a meeting of 39 ASEM partners – and we expect that more partners will join in this co-operation soon. Countries participating in this Summit represent altogether more than 2.4 billion people, which is more than 40 percent of the world's population. The partnership has resulted in broader political dialogue, stronger economic relations, as well as deeper co-operation in the field of social affairs and cultural exchanges. We have been able to exchange views in an open and straightforward manner even on sensitive issues. I hope that this will be the atmosphere here in Helsinki as well.

This Summit provides us with an excellent opportunity to keep up the momentum and aim even higher. We all share one world, and we all need each

other to address common challenges. In order to govern globalisation, we need cooperation within regions, between regions, and we need to promote multilateralism – in particular through the United Nations. We are all members of the world organisation. This interregional co-operation provides a strong means to support the work and role of the United Nations.

Multilateralism is the key instrument for creating a democratic, legitimate and coherent framework for globalisation. It is also the single most important tool to address the broad security agenda. Due to the fact that nowadays our actions and policy decisions have often also cross-border impacts, the commitment to a multilateral approach is more important than ever. Globalisation offers great opportunities – and issues such as economic liberalisation, wider market access and sound macroeconomic policies are certainly important aims for all of us. However, today the benefits of globalisation are not evenly spread. Far too many people are living in poverty, suffering or are totally excluded from globalisation. That is why we need to focus on the social dimension of globalisation and on poverty reduction. ASEM can effectively contribute to reforming globalisation fairer. In this context I am particularly happy to note that the ASEM6 will accept a declaration on climate change.

ASEM is not only about institutions or administrations; it is also about people. ASEM helps create closer partnerships between parliaments, businesses, trade unions, non-governmental organisations, and also between ordinary citizens. Student exchanges and people-to-people programmes are good example of this. All these partnerships are needed for the creation of a better and safer world. Therefore, we must see them as important and integral part of our co-operation. Different forms of cooperation within ASEM framework are needed to truly strengthen our common values – that is democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

I wish all the success for the ASEM6 Summit and for the future of dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. Thank you very much for your attention.

Appendix 11

Opening speech by the Prime Minister of Finland Matti Vanhanen, as Summit host

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,
As the President of the European Council I would like to officially welcome our Asian partner countries, the Member States of the European Union, and the European Commission to Finland for the Sixth Asia-Europe Meeting. As President Halonen just mentioned, this is a very special occasion, because today we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the ASEM partnership. The Bangkok Summit of 1996 was the beginning of a new era in Asia-Europe relations. It confirmed that our regions are crucial partners in today's interconnected and interdependent world. The Summit here in Helsinki will give us the chance to reflect on the past decade and also to map out the future directions of the process. At the same time it will be an excellent occasion to discuss important current issues on the international agenda.

I am proud to host this meeting as the President of the European Council. For the Finnish EU Presidency, our interaction with Asia is crucial, and today's occasion shows that Asia is a vital partner for the European Union. Our relations are now stronger and more dynamic than ever. ASEM plays a unique role in bringing our two regions together. It allows us to consult each other in an informal, open and free atmosphere, and to lay the foundation for further action. At the previous summit in Hanoi two years ago we therefore re-affirmed ASEM's importance as a framework for fostering the Asia-Europe comprehensive partnership in the twenty-first century. Today, on ASEM's tenth anniversary, we need to work together to further strengthen that partnership. Just to highlight the importance of Asia-Europe cooperation: Today ASEM partners represent 40% of the world's population, 50% of global GDP and 60% of world trade.

The EU has become a global actor which politically and economically participates in strengthening peace and stability on our own continent and elsewhere. Many of the priorities we have set for our Presidency are relevant for our relations with Asia as well. Let me mention a few examples. Strengthening and reforming the UN as the centrepiece of an effective multilateral system; responding to security threats; addressing climate change and achieving global agreement on how to take the UN climate regime forward; improving energy efficiency and promoting the use of renewable energy resources; and promoting intercultural and interfaith dialogue. We will discuss all these issues with our Asian partners during this Summit.

Please allow me to say a few words on what I think our ambitions should be for this two-day gathering here in Helsinki, by briefly running through the agenda. We will start our meeting today by discussing the multilateral system, the

United Nations as its centre, and cooperation to address broad security issues. Asia and Europe stand firmly united in the support of multilateralism. ASEM gives us the chance to address collective security issues such as the prevention of terrorism, organised crime and global health threats. We can coordinate a common policy through dialogue, and translate it into action-oriented initiatives.

“Dialogue among Cultures and Civilisations” will be another topic high on the Summit agenda. We need to take advantage of the diversity of ASEM countries and regions in order to promote dialogue between people of different civilisations, cultures or beliefs. I firmly believe that such a dialogue can foster understanding and tolerance, and can be instrumental in avoiding stereotyping and intercultural misunderstandings. It can also be a tool to prevent the use of violence in the name of religion. Issues such as intercultural and interfaith dialogue, cooperation in education, and the promotion of cultural diversity will therefore be key elements in our deliberations.

Our discussions will furthermore deal with sustainable development, including environment and energy security. Improving the quality of life must go hand in hand with an efficient and environmentally responsible use of all natural, human and economic resources. ASEM provides us with the opportunity to discuss economic and social development in conjunction with environmental protection. Climate change and energy security are at the heart of this debate.

It is needless to say that climate change can have drastic consequences both for Europe and Asia. We need to send a strong message about climate change and our common will to tackle this challenge.

The debate on energy security illustrates well the value-added that ASEM can provide. Both Asia and Europe are major energy consumers. We both face similar challenges and are looking into innovative and renewable energy solutions. I am convinced that there is scope for common approaches and cooperation in energy.

We will also address globalisation and competitiveness. “Globalisation” is the single most important key-concept that marks the past decade. Globalisation equals in the first place opportunities. It has brought us together, and allows us to benefit from increased mutual interdependence. But globalisation also brings with it new challenges. During our Meeting we can explore ways to address structural changes in the global economy, and the means to benefit from globalisation while responding to its challenges.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Ten years of dialogue and cooperation have firmly strengthened Asia-Europe relations in all fields. We should build on this solid foundation, and take the process forward. I am very pleased to announce that during this Summit we will make an important decision concerning enlargement of our partnership. We intend to invite India, Mongolia, Pakistan and the ASEAN Secretariat on the Asian side, and Bulgaria and Romania as acceding EU Member States on the European side, to

participate in the ASEM process. I am convinced that this enlargement will not only widen, but also significantly deepen Asia-Europe relations.

Distinguished colleagues, dear ASEM friends,
In this age of globalisation Asia and Europe face the same challenges. Now more than ever our two regions need each other. Together we can achieve much more, if we combine our weight in order to find joint responses to global challenges. I am convinced that the Helsinki Summit can be a key building stone to that purpose.

I thank you very much, and I look forward to a stimulating and successful Summit.

Appendix 12

Opening speech by the Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Tan Dung, as former host

Excellency Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen, Excellencies leaders of ASEM members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we are all very delighted to gather here in Helsinki, the capital city of Finland, a beautiful and prosperous country, to attend an extremely important event, the 6th Asia-Europe Summit. From this august forum, I would like to extend to the people of Finland the warmest greetings of friendship and best wishes from the people of Vietnam. I also would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Prime Minister, Government and people of Finland for the warm hospitality extended to us and excellent arrangements to make the Summit a great success.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The ASEM 6 Summit takes place at a crucial time when ASEM is celebrating its tenth anniversary. The strong development of our forum in the last decade clearly shows that its foundation was a wise decision.

Historically, the two continents and their linkages have always played a very important role in global conjunctures. Asia and Europe once were the cradles of glorious civilizations and now jointly make up half of the world production and trade. Overcoming the ups and downs of the history, the two continents have engaged in multi-sided cooperation on the basis of equity, mutual respect and benefit.

The inception of ASEM is a historical hallmark that created a new momentum for the development of Asia-Europe ties. In the last ten years, this process has been further deepened and broadened.

From its 26 founding members, at the Hanoi Summit, ASEM has expanded to embrace 13 new members and now more and more states would like to join our family. ASEM is not only the forum for governments but also a magnet to business communities and mass organizations, including the youth.

The areas and scope for cooperation have been expanded with increasingly substantive activities. Since economic and trade relations play an important role in generating wealth for ASEM members and creating a solid basis for the multi-sided cooperation between our two continents, we have strengthened our ties in these fields through the Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP) and Investment Promotion Action Plan (IPAP). At the same time, cooperation in finance, environment protection, human resource training and science and technology, especially

in the Information Technology area, has been strongly promoted. At the historic ASEM 5 Summit, the Hanoi Declaration on Closer Economic Partnership (CEP) was adopted to further substantiate Asia-Europe cooperation.

A diverse and unique culture has been the strength of both Asia and Europe. Therefore, cooperation in this field has contributed to enhancing mutual understanding among our nations.

In a world full of complex developments, we have conducted dialogues in the spirit of mutual trust and respect to further consolidate peace, promote cooperation for sustainable development, and establish a fair and equitable world order not only in our two continents but also in the world at large.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In such context, what ASEM has done during the past 10 years is not insignificant. All three pillars of cooperation in the economic and trade, political and cultural areas have achieved impressive progress. However, there remain potentials untapped and opportunities missed to further promote Asia - Europe cooperation.

Today, the world economy has strongly recovered but remained uncertain with currency volatility and price fluctuation, especially rising oil price. Globalization, though continuing to move forward, is challenged by the failure of the Doha Round, increasing signs of protectionism and widening development gap between rich and poor countries. Global issues such as disasters, epidemics, terrorism and trans-national crimes, and etc., are becoming more serious. Peace and cooperation for development are still a prevailing trend. However, we are witnessing tensions as a result of arms race and conflicts over ethnic, religious, territorial and natural resource issues, etc.

In this context, more than ever, ASEM is required to take more actions in the spirit of "10 Years of ASEM: Global challenges – Joint Responses", the theme we defined for ASEM 6.

It is our view that, at the Helsinki Summit and in the years to come, we should pay more attention to burning issues of the time to live up to the expectations of the people of all members.

Cooperation in economic and trade, investment as well as in finance and science and technology should continue to be the priority of the ASEM process. At the same time, for the sake of sustainable development, due attention should be given to cooperation in human resources development, environmental protection, prevention of disasters and epidemics, especially HIV/AIDS and avian influenza. Along that line, actions should be taken to implement the Hanoi Declaration on ASEM Closer Economic Partnership (CEP), and to elaborate a plan of action with concrete measures to further substantiate our cooperation. We believe that it is now time to resume activities of our economic ministers so as to materialize our policies. I also believe the IT Ministerial Meeting to be held in Hanoi this Decem-

ber will create a new momentum for strengthening Asia – Europe cooperation, especially at a time when the IT industry is booming with profound changes not only in the socio – economic but also in cultural fields and the people’s lifestyle.

Energy has become and will continue to be a burning issue in the future. It is our view that ASEM should deepen cooperation in this critical area, especially in energy saving and renewable energy development. We are willing to host an ASEM forum on energy security policy and hope to receive active support and response from members.

As part of the world economy, we look forward to an early resumption of the Doha Round. Countries concerned should have greater flexibility, taking into account the legitimate interests of all parties, especially developing nations. I am of the view that the ASEM process, with its influence and strength, could make worthy contribution to this end. We would also like, once again, to express our sincere thanks to ASEM members for your strong support for our accession into the WTO. We look forward to your continued support in this regard so as to enable us to join the organization at the coming WTO General Council Session.

To further enrich our cultures and cement friendship among nations, cultural exchanges should continue to be promoted. Tourism is an effective cooperation channel not only in the economic but also cultural areas. In this connection, we propose that our officials be tasked to study the possibilities of establishing an Asia-Europe Tourism Network aimed at promoting our cooperation in this area.

Besides bilateral cooperation between the two continents, with our conscience and responsibility, we should continue political dialogues on issues related to peace and development as well as latest developments in Asia, Europe and the world at large on the basis of mutual trust and respect.

To translate our ideas into reality and to live up to the expectations of our people, it is imperative that the modus operandi of ASEM should be improved and reformed to be more effective. In addition to the government forums, business cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, especially among the youth, should be encouraged.

Building on the achievements over the past 10 years and in the spirit of our traditional friendship and cooperation, we strongly believe that the ASEM 6 Summit, under the able chairmanship of H.E. Prime Minister Vanhanen, will be a great success, creating new impetus for the ASEM process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10 years of Vietnam’s participation in ASEM coincides with the country’s comprehensive reform and active integration process. We always take sustainable development as a guiding principle, combine economic growth with social equity and poverty reduction, and attach great importance to human resource development and effective use of natural resources and environmental protection.

Thanks to the reform and open-door policy, the Vietnamese people have recorded remarkable achievements. Vietnam is now known as a stable society,

a dynamic economy and an attractive destination for foreign investors and tourists. The country has achieved a number of the Millennium Development Goals before the deadline, which has been recognized by the international community. Our average GDP growth rate over the past 10 years was above 7%. Total export value, at present, accounts for more than half of GDP. Poverty rate, according to the international line, was halved from 58% in 1993 to 22% in 2005.

Our objectives in the next 5 years are to bring Vietnam out of the less development status and create a firm foundation for the country to basically turn into an industrial and modern nation by 2020. We will continue to accelerate our comprehensive reform, improve market institutions, put in place a transparent legal framework, create a liberal environment conducive and equal to all businesses. At the same time, measures will be taken to intensify the fight against corruption, administrative reform and active integration into the regional and the world economy.

Vietnam will continue to consistently pursue the open foreign policy of independence, sovereignty, peace and development, diversification and multi-lateralization of external relations. It is also our policy to integrate more into the regional and world economy in the spirit that Vietnam is a friend, a reliable partner and an active and constructive member of the international community, striving for peace, independence and sustainable development. As a country in South-east Asia and Asia Pacific, Vietnam has made active contributions to ASEAN and APEC. We are now working hard to prepare for the 2006 APEC Summit to be held in Hanoi this November. Besides its active contributions to the ASEM process, Vietnam attaches great importance to the promotion of multi-faceted cooperation with ASEM members. Vietnam would like to be a firm span of the bridge connecting our two continents and we will do our utmost to contribute to further enhancing the Asia-Europe partnership. On our path of reform and development, Vietnam looks forward to the continued support and cooperation of our Asian and European friends.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Appendix 13

Opening speech by the President of the Republic of Korea Roh Moo-hyun, as Asian Coordinator

Honorable Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
I would like to offer my congratulations on the Opening of the 6th ASEM Summit Meeting, and express my deepest appreciation to the people of Finland.

I have every confidence that this meeting, held in such a historic city, where the foundations were firmly laid for overcoming the Cold War with the "Helsinki Final Act", will be a resounding success.

It is now ten years since ASEM was launched. Over the last decade ASEM has played an important role in connecting Europe and Asia through the promotion of mutual understanding, exchanges and cooperation.

Through the ASEM meetings, the Asian countries are learning from Europe's experience and achievements in integration and multilateral security cooperation. The experience of Europe is something that can serve as a very useful guide and reference for Asia, in establishing a peaceful and stable security order and seeking to build a regional community.

Furthermore, our two regions are also forging a close partnership in the economic field. If we further strengthen the cooperation between Asia, which continues to achieve dynamic growth with its large markets, and Europe, with its experiences as the largest single market, this will greatly benefit not only our two regions but indeed the global economy.

Distinguished Guests,
Korea has always had very special ties with ASEM. In the year 2000, we successfully hosted ASEM 3, and through various initiatives, we have made all our efforts to further strengthen the bonds of solidarity between our two regions. Those efforts include the "Information Silk Road" through high-speed IT network, an "Education Silk Road" based on the fellowship program, and an "Iron Silk Road" which will link the rails starting from an inter-Korean railway all the way into Europe.

Adding to this, Korea's economic cooperation with European countries has also expanded significantly. The EU is now our second largest export market, and is Korea's largest foreign investor. Last year, trade with the EU amounted to 52.7 billion Euros, double the amount ten years ago, and the number of Korean students studying in Europe has also risen more than two-fold.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
ASEM now needs to further elevate its level of cooperation on the basis of the achievements over the past 10 years. This “forum for dialogue” must now grow into a more substantial “medium for cooperation”. In this regard, it would be desirable for ASEM to expand and deepen its dialogue to meet the global challenges with common responses.

Above all, I believe that, with the advance of globalization and the information age, ASEM needs to more actively work to resolve the deepening socio-economic disparities that exist among regions, nations and different social classes.

Direct help such as in the form of aid is also important. Yet, capacity-building through the building of IT infrastructure and development of human resources to help people to adjust and respond appropriately to changes in the times will be an even more important task.

Korea, as it has done in the past, will continue to participate actively in ASEM efforts to resolve these socio-economic disparities, with a special focus on narrowing the digital and education divide.

It is my sincere hope that this meeting will prove to be a historic milestone, ushering in a new decade for ASEM, and I wish you all every health and happiness.

Thank you for your attention.

Appendix 14

Opening speech by the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, as European Coordinator

I am honoured to speak to you on this historic occasion as ASEM celebrates its 10th anniversary.

We are living in an inter-dependent world. Nowhere is that more apparent than in relations between Asia and Europe. This compelling reality lies at the very core of ASEM.

The theme of this Summit – global challenges - joint responses – could not be more appropriate.

Our agenda, which includes strengthening multilateralism and addressing security threats, globalisation and competitiveness, sustainable development, intercultural and interfaith dialogues, are all inextricably linked to the major concerns of citizens in Europe and Asia today.

As we all recognize, challenges and threats do not respect borders and must be faced together. Tomorrow, September 11, we mark the anniversary of terrible events that ripped into our consciousness. Terrorism is a great threat to the international community and must be fought jointly.

Our joint commitment to promoting peace and security, sustainable development and human rights, as embodied in the United Nations, are values that we share and we must together proclaim our continued resolve to promote and protect them.

The economic integration of the world is advancing at an unprecedented rate, and Europe and Asia play an ever growing part in this. The process of globalisation brings with it enormous opportunities, significantly boosting productivity and improving the lives of millions. The extraordinary growth of many of our Asian partners must be recognized, first and foremost, for lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty but also for providing a great motor for the global economy. At the same time, the transformational impact of globalisation on national economies and society poses serious challenges. The consequences of globalisation need to be managed, and this can be achieved much more effectively through concerted efforts by Asia and Europe.

To maximise the benefits of globalisation and mitigate its potential adverse impact, there is a need to strengthen the social dimension. Appropriate economic, education, employment and social policies should be implemented to improve the capacity of firms and workers to adjust, and to promote the interdependent objectives of productivity growth, job creation, decent work and social cohesion. And we must also of course consider how globalisation and demographic change

are affecting migratory flows in both our regions. Here too, Europe and Asia have much to learn from each other.

The bedrock of globalization is open and fair trade. We could not, therefore, feel more disappointed at the suspension of the Doha negotiations. The Doha agenda is as much about development as it is about trade. We must resume the round without delay. Other trade arrangements between regions and countries must be complementary to the multilateral trading system.

Managing globalization must be done in a sustainable way. We have a duty before future generations to protect and use the resources of our planet in a responsible manner. Our economies depend on ever increasing supplies of energy and we must continue to find ways to secure, conserve and make more efficient our energy use, developing clean energy and greater use of renewable energy sources.

Climate change is happening and our future is in the balance. Here again, borders are meaningless and we must develop a concerted response, mobilizing all our countries to take effective action, both in the context of the Kyoto Protocol and beyond.

Dialogue among cultures and civilisations, in addition to enhancing mutual understanding, contributes positively to mitigating the new challenges posed by globalisation. Cultural diversity is an important factor driving economic and social progress. Partners are encouraged to ratify and implement the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted in 2005, thanks in no small part to our combined efforts.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

This dialogue between Europe and Asia is also being conducted at the level of civil society. The Asia-Europe Business and People's Fora taking place alongside this Summit and the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership are clear illustrations of the vitality of the broader process. And the many cultural, intellectual and people-to-people exchange programmes organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), particularly involving youth, perform a valuable function by linking together the civil societies of our two regions.

Indeed, people-to-people contacts, particularly among the young, must be the foundation of a closer relationship between Europe and Asia.

From the outset ASEM has acted as a catalyst, stimulating interaction between business communities, trade unions, NGOs, parliaments and other sectors of civil society in Asia and Europe, and providing them with a framework for discussing topical issues as diverse as human rights and health threats, environment and energy, commerce and intercultural dialogue, and so on. Over the last ten years, ASEM has thus become a multi-layered and multi-dimensional setting actively used by representatives of all walks of life in Asia and Europe.

As we celebrate ASEM's 10th anniversary, we have to look forward as well as back. Certainly, ASEM cannot rest on its laurels.

ASEM can best demonstrate its abiding relevance by closely following the evolution of the international agenda and by adopting a clear focus on global issues where Asia and Europe have the combined weight to markedly influence policy making in the international area, as well as continuing to fulfil its other essential function which is to cement our relationship.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Next year, we will celebrate 50 years of European integration. Today, 25 - soon to be 27 - European nations live in peace and prosperity following two catastrophic world wars. From their ashes and consolidated by a deep process of reconciliation between previous enemies, we have overcome the division of Europe and constructed a new Union, living in peace and marked by unprecedented social and economic progress. While we acknowledge that every situation has its own specificities, we feel proud when so many of our partners and friends in Asia consider the European experience as a source of inspiration for their own cooperation and integration efforts.

Over the past decade, ASEM has made a vital contribution to furthering and deepening our relationship, and its continuing capacity to attract other partners is a measure of its vitality and success.

With high hopes for the future, we look forward to a fruitful Summit which will pave the way to an even stronger Asia-Europe partnership.

Thank you.

Appendix 15

Opening speech by the President of Indonesia Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, as Asian Coordinator

Distinguished Colleagues, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honoured to speak on behalf of my ASEAN Colleagues. We hold our sixth summit as we observe a decade of ASEM. This is a good time to assess what we have done in ten years, to reflect on it, and to plan what to do next.

Ten years is not such a long time in the life of a forum. ASEAN at ten still consisted of just the six founding members. We were just holding our second summit and beginning to work together in earnest on the basis of Bali Concord I.

When the EU was ten years old, it was still the EEC. It had only 12 members. Its economic policies were just beginning to be consolidated and it was moving towards greater political cooperation.

ASEM at ten is mature beyond its years. It has fulfilled its original aim of serving as an informal forum for dialogue and cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual respect. The statistics of our progress—our meetings, initiatives, and the growth in our membership—make impressive numbers. The larger story, however, is not told in numbers.

That story is told in the rise of the quality of our dialogue and its deepening global context.

Our dialogue, now focused on the present but with great caring for the future, has become much more comfortable and geared more clearly toward practical results. We are working harder, assured of one another's equality and mutual respect. And we are moving forward with greater confidence as we take up the challenges of our time.

One great challenge is the widespread yearning for a dialogue of civilizations that will lead to lasting global peace. But I think a large part of that dialogue has already begun in the processes of ASEM. In fact, ASEM is a constructive dialogue between the great civilizations of Europe and Asia, interfaith dialogue being an important aspect of it.

That dialogue began ten years ago and it has since grown in strength and clarity. That is because the partners in the dialogue are also enhancing their roles on the global stage.

Europe today is a greater and more active force for peace than it was ten years ago. More important, Europe, like Asia, is a force that keeps kept faith with multilateralism in a world that has suffered much from unilateralist trends.

I am grateful for the contributions of the EU to the consolidation of peace in Aceh. And I am hopeful that the active involvement of the EU in the Middle East today will revive the peace process.

ASEAN and the rest of Asia have also changed for the better. When ASEM was born Asia was hailed for its economic miracle, but it was already on the brink of a deep financial crisis. Chastened by that crisis, Asia began a ferment of reform and economic integration. Thus its economic recovery is marked by a springtime of democracy—the rise of a home-grown democratic spirit in much of the region.

I think it is the unique business of our forum to build on the wealth of experience of the ASEM partners and make it serve not only our national development goals but also the welfare of humanity at large.

As we mark the tenth year of our forum, let us resolve to continue learning from one another, helping one another, while serving as a force for dialogue and multilateralism in international affairs.

And let us continue to work together to nurture this vital partnership and cooperation between Asia and Europe based on the three pillars of political and security cooperation; economic, trade and investment; and socio-cultural cooperation.

Thank you.

Appendix 16

Closing statement by the Prime Minister of Finland Matti Vanhanen, as Summit host

We have now come to the end of the Sixth ASEM Summit. I truly feel that this has been a historic meeting.

First of all, our partnership celebrated its tenth anniversary. A decade ago a new era started in Asia-Europe relations. In the wake of globalisation and the ever-growing global interdependence, ASEM has become the engine behind stronger relations between our two regions in all fields. Ten years of dialogue and cooperation provide us with a very solid foundation and allow us to set clear orientations for the future.

We need to keep on working to reinforce our partnership, and keep in mind ASEM's open and evolutionary character. The Helsinki Summit has led to a significant widening of the process. We have taken an important decision about enlargement of the ASEM partnership. We warmly welcome Bulgaria and Romania, as acceding countries on the European side, and India, Pakistan, Mongolia and the ASEAN Secretariat on the Asian side as new partners. I personally very much look forward to welcoming these new partners when we meet in two years from now. Their inclusion shows that ASEM is a dynamic process and continues to attract new partners.

The Summit has furthermore contributed to an important deepening of our partnership. In true ASEM spirit we held open, informal and frank discussions on many issues. I firmly believe that our deliberations have brought both our regions closer together in defining joint responses to global challenges, the overarching motto of this Summit. In addition to the Chairman's Statement, which reflects our discussions, the Summit has adopted two important declarations. The ASEM6 Declaration on Climate Change is a strong signal to the world that ASEM intends to tackle the threat that climate change poses to sustainable development. This is ASEM at its best. The Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM sets general principles to take the ASEM process forward and make our partnership even stronger.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,
In the closing stages of this Summit I would like to thank you all for your important contributions.

Before giving the floor to the Chinese Premier as the host of the next Summit, I propose we first look back to the very beginnings of our partnership. Ten years ago Leaders from both our regions attended a landmark first ASEM Summit in Bangkok, Thailand. I would therefore now like to invite Prime Minister

Thaksin of Thailand to make some retrospective remarks as host of the inaugural Summit.

In two years from now we will meet again in Beijing. I am convinced that China as the next host will ensure that the Asia-Europe partnership continues to enhance dialogue and cooperation between both our regions. I would now like to invite Premier Wen Jiabao to give his closing remarks, looking ahead to ASEM7.

I am sure that the organisation of our next meeting is in good hands, and I look forward to the next Summit. The time has now come to formally close this Summit. As the host of the Sixth Asia-Europe Meeting I thank you very much for your attendance and participation.

Appendix 17

Closing remarks by the Prime Minister of Thailand Thaksin Shinawatra, as host of ASEM1

Your Majesty, Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ten years ago, the First Asia-Europe Summit was held in Bangkok. Today, I am deeply honoured to be asked to speak to commemorate that important step in Asia-Europe relations. I feel even more glad to do so since my personal bond and involvement with ASEM had begun long before I attended my first Summit in Copenhagen 4 years ago.

The initiative for ASEM, to us from ASEAN, came from Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore at the APEC Summit in Bogor, Indonesia, in 1994. I just happen to remember because I was also there myself as Thailand's Foreign Minister. Later, when my Singaporean counterpart, Foreign Minister Jayakumar, came to see me to expand the idea, I offered Thailand's support and agreed that we would be the host for the first ASEM Summit. The inaugural summit was then held in 1996, making this year a full decade of Asia-Europe cooperation.

Ten years on, while political leaders come and go, ASEM could rely on the dedication and unrelenting commitment of prominent Asian and European Leaders, who were with us ten years ago and continue to be with us supporting ASEM today. I wish to pay tribute to President Jacques Chirac of France, Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg and His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam, and for Finland, Speaker Paavo Lipponen who participated in ASEM 1 as Prime Minister, and President Tarja Halonen as his Foreign Minister. The personal commitment of Leaders is what makes ASEM significant and relevant. The Leaders' personal commitment is the source of confidence and credibility of this forum. This is why I am here for my third Summit. We must not lose this personal touch.

Ten years on, we see the expansion of ASEM membership which reflects the increasing role played by our two continents both in world affairs and in our bilateral relations. We see our expansion in scope and we see that comfort level, consensus-building and voluntary participation are the basis of our cooperation. We see the expanded Europe and we see the more prosperous Asia. We see our cooperation providing confidence and synergy, enhancing the opportunities for growth in both Europe and Asia and for better economic and living conditions in Asia.

Today, as the Asian members of ASEM hold more than half of the world's foreign reserves and one-third of the world population, we see that trade and investment flows between Asia and Europe have gone up by 50% since our first

Summit. ASEM combined now represents half of the world's GDP. Based on European ingenuity and Asian adaptability, ASEM partnership can serve as a catalyst for greater global growth and prosperity. To do so, we must address the problems and find solutions. We must not only react but be pro-active in our cooperation. We must encourage our private sectors to be equally pro-active. And we must continue to gain benefits from the opportunity and the goodwill generated from ASEM for the growth of our two regions.

But achievements in growth and prosperity are no longer enough if we are to benefit the people of our two continents, and effectively respond to changes and challenges since our first Summit. ASEM must be a forum that extends more to other fields. ASEM must grow with our people at the centre of our activities.

Climate change, health, cultural and social cooperation are the fields that ASEM must continue to promote. Our strength depends also on the mutual understanding and closer interaction of our people. It is the people-to-people contact from the grassroots level to the top that defines ASEM's true success.

From the top, the ASEM Summit provides a unique opportunity for Leaders from Asia and Europe to meet and interact, fostering our mutual understanding and personal friendship and finding solutions for common problems. But we need to see people at all levels engaged in ASEM. Activities to foster common sentiments between the grassroots of our two continents, such as the ASEM Youth Games that Thailand initiated last year, are to be encouraged and increased in number and participation. Other activities such as the Asia-Europe Foundation and Interfaith Dialogue can drive our people closer and make ASEM more meaningful to their life.

After all, as I said from the beginning, political leaders come and go. Only their contributions to their people stay forever. As ASEM moves on to its second decade, as political leaders, we must pledge our political will and commitment for the benefits of our people both for the present and the future. We must make sure that ASEM will be the vehicle to carry forward our cooperation and goodwill for the sake of all our people of this generation and the generations that follow. And we must make sure that, considering the expanded membership, we will be determined to make future ASEM Summits produce tangible outcomes for our people. Because that will be the only way ASEM can become strengthened with greater relevance to peace and prosperity of our two important continents of the world.

Thank you very much.

Appendix 18

Closing remarks by the Prime Minister of China Wen Jiabao, as next host

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Colleagues,
I wish to extend my warm congratulations on the success of the Summit. I also wish to sincerely thank Finland, host of the Summit, for its thoughtful arrangements and warm hospitality.

In the past two days, leaders from 39 Asian and European partners have reviewed the experience and achievements in the past 10 years since the inauguration of ASEM. Together, we have mapped out an inspiring blueprint for its future in the spirit of conducting dialogue on an equal footing, increasing understanding, building consensus and deepening cooperation.

China will host the Seventh Asia-Europe Meeting in Beijing in October 2008. I will work closely with you to enhance Asia-Europe strategic dialogue, promote practical economic cooperation and increase cultural exchanges and dialogues among civilizations to strengthen and deepen the new Asia-Europe partnership. We will greatly appreciate your support to China in this joint endeavour.

I look forward to meeting you again in Beijing.

Appendix 19

Final press release of the ASEM6 Summit

A decision on the enlargement of ASEM in the Helsinki Summit

The sixth Asia-Europe Meeting, the ASEM6 Summit, which took place in Helsinki on 10 and 11 September, set the guidelines for the future of the cooperation process between the two continents and adopted a decision on the admission of six new partners. By the next ASEM Summit, to be held in Beijing in 2008, the number of cooperation partners will have increased from 39 to 45. Bulgaria and Romania from Europe and India, Mongolia, Pakistan and the ASEAN Secretariat on the Asian side will join the ASEM process.

Enlargement will increase the international importance of ASEM. With the new partners, almost 60% of the world's population will be involved in ASEM cooperation. The current parties to ASEM cooperation are the Member States of the European Union, the European Commission, the 10 ASEAN countries (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), China, Japan and South Korea.

The overarching theme of "Global Challenges - Joint Responses" conveys the idea that Europe and Asia need each other in efforts to identify and resolve key topical issues.

The Heads of State or Government adopted two declarations at the summit. The aim of the Declaration on Climate Change is to add momentum to efforts to reach agreement in international climate negotiations. It supports the objectives of the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change and other measures to reduce greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.

In the other declaration, the Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM, the leaders set the guidelines for future ASEM cooperation. It also contains recommendations for practical measures for the development of cooperation.

The summit agenda covered other important European and Asian affairs, too. The leaders discussed, for example, ways to prevent terrorism and organised crime and to prepare for global health risks. The meeting reconfirmed its support for the fair, UN-based international system.

The leaders also discussed the state of the WTO talks. The ASEM countries underlined that the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) must be complemented and supported to allow the negotiations to resume.

The ASEM6 Summit, attended by almost 1,500 delegates, was the largest ever meeting at the level of Heads of State or Government hosted by Finland. The delegations were led by 36 Heads of State or Government and three Ministers. The meeting was chaired by Matti Vanhanen, Prime Minister of Finland and current President of the European Council.

Several other ASEM-related events took place in the margins of the Summit. They brought together representatives from Asian and European NGOs, labour organisations, media and business-life. The programme also included various cultural and other public events.

Helsinki, 11 September 2006

Appendix 20

Chairman's Statement of the 7th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Kyoto

(6-7 May 2005)

Introduction

1. The Seventh ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM7) was held in Kyoto, Japan on 6-7 May 2005, under the chairmanship of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Nobutaka Machimura.

2. Cooperation among the ASEM partners, which now represent about 40% of the population, 50% of GDP, and 60% of trade in today's world, is becoming increasingly important in addressing key global issues the international community is facing. Based on such recognition, and following the guidance given by the Leaders at the Fifth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM5) in Hanoi to revitalise the ASEM process, the Ministers held active and fruitful discussions on issues in which they have a common interest, including strengthening of multilateralism, sustainable development and dialogue among cultures and civilisations, under the theme "*Deepening of Asia-Europe Dialogue on Global Challenges*".

3. The Ministers expressed their determination in Kyoto to strengthen the cooperation between Asia and Europe through ASEM in tackling global challenges, and welcomed the "*Asia-Europe Partnership to Tackle Global Challenges*". Recognising the importance of focusing ASEM activities on the areas described hereafter, and bearing in mind the agenda adopted at ASEM5, the Ministers invited other ASEM ministerial meetings to hold their discussions with a similar focus in their respective areas of responsibility.

Strengthening Multilateralism: Addressing Security Threats and Challenges, as well as Regional and International Issues

4. The Ministers confirmed the commitment to multilateralism and to a fair, just and rule-based international order with the United Nations (UN) playing the central role to effectively address new global challenges and threats. They reiterated their commitment to make utmost efforts to ensure the success of the High-Level Plenary Meeting in September and to support the reform of the UN. They concurred in the need for comprehensive and intensive discussion on various aspects of the reform, as referred to in the Secretary General's Report entitled "*In Larger Freedom*". In this vein, they reaffirmed their determination to contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and stressed the neces-

sity of reforming the UN's principal organs including the General Assembly and the Security Council with a view to strengthening and enhancing the representativeness, transparency and effectiveness of the UN system. They took note with interest of the recommendations on the Peace-building Commission and of the ongoing discussion on humanitarian reform and the UN's human rights organs/mechanisms.

5. The Ministers reiterated the importance of strengthening efforts on disarmament and non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery as well as related materials and technology in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1540 to prevent proliferation. To this end, they underlined the need to promote universalisation and domestic implementation of treaties and norms in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation with, *inter alia*, enhanced export control systems, and decided to make utmost efforts to ensure the success of the 2005 NPT Review Conference being held in New York.

6. The Ministers called upon all states to accede to, ratify and implement all of the 12 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols as a matter of urgency, and implement relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. They welcomed the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in April, and expressed their strong support for concluding the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism before the end of the 60th session of the UN General Assembly. They stressed the need to further promote the development of counter-terrorism capacity in the countries fighting against terrorism and requiring assistance in this area, while acknowledging the ASEM Seminar on Anti-terrorism held in Berlin in October 2004, and looking forward to the next such seminar in Indonesia in September 2005. They bore in mind that all counter-terrorism measures should be adopted and undertaken in full respect of international law, in particular international human rights, refugee, and humanitarian law. The Ministers renewed their intention to combine their efforts in the fight against money-laundering and terrorism-financing by ensuring, to this end, the full implementation of the relevant international standards and conventions.

7. While recognising the significance of the conclusions of the Eleventh Congress of the UN on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok from 18 to 25 April 2005, the Ministers underlined their commitment to conclude treaties related to transnational organised crimes, such as the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, against Corruption as well as conventions on illicit drugs, and to strict compliance with these treaties. They underlined the efforts of ASEM countries on preventing trafficking in human, especially women and children. They stressed the importance to extend necessary support to the countries requiring assistance for capacity-building in law enforcement and judicial

institutions to combat organised crime. Recognising the importance of mitigating threats posed on the Sea Lane of Communication between Asia and Europe, they underscored the necessity to strengthen cooperation, including assistance for capacity-building of coastal states, to ensure maritime security and safety of the maritime transportation. They confirmed their commitment to enhance cooperation for preventing trafficking of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW), especially towards the adoption of an international instrument for the timely and reliable identification and tracing of illicit SALW to the agreed schedule.

8. In connection with the strengthening of multilateralism, the Ministers exchanged views on the following:

- The Ministers deepened their understanding through exchange of views on the development of regional integration in Asia and Europe: ASEAN+3 cooperation, the movement towards an East Asian community (EAc) and the East Asia Summit (EAS), as well as development in further EU integration and enlargement.
- On the Korean Peninsula, expressing deep concern over the DPRK Foreign Ministry's February 10th statement, the Ministers strongly urged the DPRK to return to the negotiating table of the Six-Party Talks without any further delay, and to make a strategic decision so as to achieve the denuclearization of the Peninsula in a peaceful manner through dialogue. For the peace and stability of the Peninsula and the region at large, they encouraged the parties concerned to continue to take coordinated steps to address the nuclear issue and address all related concerns.
- Recalling that the ongoing Middle East peace process provides a historical opportunity for realisation of two states living side by side in peace and security, the Ministers stressed that it is crucial for both the Israeli and Palestinian sides to implement without delay their obligations under the Road Map and the mutual commitments manifested at the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit, and that the international community should enhance its support to this end.
- The Ministers stressed the need to provide the support for the success of the Afghan parliamentary and provincial elections scheduled on 18 September. They reaffirmed the continued commitment of the international community to reconstruction and stabilisation including counter-narcotics, the demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants, the formation of the Afghan National Army and police force as well as judicial reform, and that this commitment would continue beyond the formal completion of the Bonn Process.
- The Ministers welcomed the progress in the Iraqi political process on the basis of the UNSCR 1546, in particular the formation of a transitional government on 28 April. Taking note of the importance of positive in-

teraction between improvement of the security situation and recovery of the economy brought about by the development of the political process, they encouraged concerted efforts by the international community for further assistance to the Iraqi transitional government and the Iraqi people.

- The Ministers welcomed the entry into force of the UN-Cambodian Agreement on the Khmer Rouge Trial and looked forward to the prompt start of the Trial.
- The Ministers took note of the briefings by the representative of Myanmar on the recent developments in the country. The Ministers also took note of the concerns over the current situation and renewed their expectations for lifting of all restrictions and development of democratisation process at the earliest possible time which involves all the parties concerned. Recognising the role of the UN, they called upon the Government to grant access to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and continue cooperation with other relevant UN agencies.

Promoting Partnership for Human-Centred and Sustainable Development

9. The Ministers discussed the need for human-centred and sustainable development including the environment and energy security.

10. The Ministers reiterated that the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol have established an effective framework and rules for international cooperation in addressing climate change. Welcoming the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, they encouraged its parties to fulfil their commitment and to make effective use of the Kyoto Mechanisms, and urged the countries that have not yet concluded the Kyoto Protocol to do so as soon as possible. The Ministers expressed the need to ensure the widest possible participation of countries in the Kyoto Protocol and, in the Post-2012 framework, to achieve an effective, cost-efficient and appropriate international response, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. They underlined the need for early consultations on actions after 2012, and the need to advance discussion on the post-2012 regime at the next UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP 11) with a view to initiating negotiations on a future framework.

11. The Ministers expressed their belief that the development of cleaner and more efficient technologies will contribute to improving a balance between economic growth and environmental conservation. Taking note of the Ministerial Conference on the 3R(Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Initiative in Tokyo, they decided to strive towards building a sound material-cycle society, for more sustainable

patterns of production and consumption, including through a major shift to delivering new products and services with lower environmental impacts across their lifecycles.

12. The Ministers drew particular attention to the impact that illegal logging has on environmental degradation and climate systems, and called on both producer and consumer countries to strengthen their efforts to prevent illegal logging. They also noted the need for cooperation to prevent forest fire. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of enhancing the protection of the marine environment and promoting sustainable use of its resources.

13. The Ministers expressed concern over the impacts of continued high oil prices on global economic growth. While anticipating increasing demand for energy especially in Asia, they recognised the particular importance of enhancing energy security through energy conservation, improvement of energy efficiency and wider use of alternative energy sources, including nuclear power in those countries having chosen nuclear power as an option.

14. The Ministers shared the view that in achieving the MDGs and the goals contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, there is a considerable scope for further dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe as successfully demonstrated by this meeting. In the light of the successful economic development in Asia through self-sustained growth led by trade and investment, they underlined the importance of South-South cooperation involving emerging donor countries, along with continued support by traditional donors. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the outcome of the Asia-Africa Summit held in Indonesia in April 2005. The importance of the 2005 UN Summit Meeting providing renewed impetus to the process of achieving the MDGs was also stressed. They reiterated their commitment to a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda of the WTO, and stressed the importance of well-balanced and ambitious results of the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December 2005.

15. For ensuring sustainable development, the Ministers discussed the need for protecting people from, and empowering them to deal with various threats including natural disasters, infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS, poverty and conflicts. The Ministers stressed the importance of cooperation in building human and institutional capacity to empower people to combat and successfully deal with various threats affecting their lives. Emphasising the critical role of education in development, they reaffirmed their determination to implement the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. The Ministers welcomed the support of the countries and peoples of Asia and Europe for the tsunami-affected countries. They appreciated the unprecedented wave of solidarity across

the world following the disaster, and welcomed the initiative to establish regional early warning systems in accordance with national priorities and under the coordination of relevant UN agencies.

Enhancing Dialogue among Cultures and Civilisations

16. Underlining the importance of respecting cultural diversity and preserving cultural heritages, the Ministers reaffirmed their willingness to promote further dialogue among cultures and civilisations. In this context, special references were made to the ASEM Youth Games (Bangkok, 2-8 June 2005), the Second ASEM Conference on Cultures and Civilisations (Paris, 7-8 June 2005) and the ASEM Interfaith Dialogue (Bali, 21-22 July 2005). They also expressed their intention to contribute to the successful conclusion of the convention on cultural diversity, under negotiation at UNESCO.

17. Appreciating the contribution made by ASEF in the cultural area, the Ministers stressed the importance of closer alignment of its activities to ASEM priorities as well as the sound budgetary and organisational management of ASEF.

Future of ASEM

18. Following the tasks assigned by the Leaders at ASEM5, the Ministers discussed the future of ASEM: areas of substantive cooperation, improvement of the efficiency of ASEM institutional mechanisms, and future membership/enlargement (See Annex). In this connection, the Ministers welcomed and endorsed the initiative by Finland and Japan to commission a critical review of the 10 years of ASEM as an input to ASEM6.

ASEM Initiatives

19. The Ministers also welcomed and endorsed the following new initiatives:

- ASEM Oceans Initiative
- ASEM Prosecutors-General Conference
- ASEM workshop on community-level actions for global environmental agenda
- ASEM workshop on strengthening human resources through vocational education and training
- ASEM Diplomatic Academies Network

20. As a follow up to the discussion at ASEM5, the Ministers welcomed a proposal to hold a ministerial meeting on labour and employment issues.

Future Meetings

21. The Ministers agreed to hold the Eighth Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Europe in 2007. The Ministers looked forward to ASEM6 in Finland in 2006 and welcomed China's offer to hold ASEM7 in 2008.

Kyoto, Japan, 7 May 2005.

Annex: Summary of Discussions on the Future of ASEM

Appendix 21

Chairman's Statement of the 2nd ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting, Paris

(7-8 June 2005)

The Second Meeting of ASEM Culture Ministers was held in Paris on June 7th and 8th 2005. This meeting focused on the following theme: "Cultural diversity: opportunities and challenges - ASEM's long-term plan". The meeting was attended by delegations from 36 countries and the European Commission, civil society members and the Asia-Europe Foundation.

The Ministers' proceedings came as a follow-up to:

- the 2002 Copenhagen ASEM Summit of Heads of State and Government, which encouraged the promotion of dialogue among cultures and civilizations,
- the First Meeting of ASEM Culture Ministers in Beijing in December 2003, with the theme "Unity in Diversity",
- the 2004 Hanoi ASEM Summit, which called for the development of a long-term plan on promoting dialogue among civilizations and stepping up cultural exchanges and cooperation between Asia and Europe.

The meeting enabled ASEM Culture Ministers to identify many points of common interest between Europe and Asia for the protection and promotion of cultural diversity; the Ministers outlined a set of priorities as set out in the appended action plan.

Dialogue and cooperation among cultures and civilizations are some of the best ways to further understanding and tolerance among peoples. They help to avoid misunderstandings due to ideological, economic and cultural differences. Mistrust and ignorance among cultures and civilizations can be the source of tensions undermining peace in the world.

Given the richness, diversity and long history of their respective cultures, Europe and Asia, determined to promote unity in diversity, are particularly committed to developing dialogue among their cultures and to protecting and promoting cultural diversity in order to meet positively new globalization-related challenges.

With this in mind, ASEM Culture Ministers underlined the importance of discussions carried out at UNESCO with a view to adopting an international convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. They expressed their wish that ASEM help enable that convention to work effectively towards protecting and promoting cultural diversity.

As a follow-up to the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity adopted by UNESCO in 2001 and the Declaration on Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations adopted by ASEM Heads of State and Government in Hanoi in October 2004, the Ministers reaffirmed their determination to recognise the distinctive nature of cultural activities, goods and services, to reaffirm the sovereign right for States to maintain, adopt and implement policies and measures aimed at protecting and promoting cultural diversity, to develop international cooperation, particularly in favour of developing countries to ensure wider and balanced cultural exchanges, and foster diversity of cultural expressions.

ASEM Culture Ministers have widely expressed their satisfaction that mutual supportiveness, complementarity and non-subordination be respected for governing the Convention's relations with other treaties, and that effective mechanisms for the monitoring and settlement of disputes be encouraged.

They welcomed the outcome of the 3rd intergovernmental meeting of experts recommending the adoption of the preliminary draft convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions at the 33rd session of the UNESCO General Conference in October 2005.

ASEM Culture Ministers explored the possible ways to step up cultural exchanges and cooperation between Europe and Asia. They encouraged interactions among Asia and Europe at all levels. They adopted an action plan to this end.

They underpinned their interest in developing, in their two continents, cultural industries that have the means to assert themselves on a local and global level. They reiterated their commitment to ensure effective protection of intellectual property.

They affirmed their belief that culture is an important development factor. They underlined the significance of cultural exchanges and cooperation between developing and developed countries in concretising sustainable development.

They also stressed that the enhancement of heritage and of sustainable and responsible cultural tourism can play an important role in development as well as in fostering intercultural knowledge and understanding.

ASEM Culture Ministers acknowledged the significant role that the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) plays in developing dialogue between European and Asian civil societies and between the latter and public authorities. The ASEM Culture Ministers agreed to strengthen a favourable and sustainable environment for these initiatives to develop, so that they contribute to the framing of public policies in favour of cultural diversity.

ASEM Culture Ministers would like ASEF to develop its activities in the cultural field in line with the priorities they have chosen in developing and promoting dialogue and better mutual understanding between the peoples of Asia and Europe through interactions among cultural, intellectual and civil societies.

States must show their commitment through active participation in ASEM activities and programmes so that ASEM can be an effective forum between Europe and Asia. European and Asian ASEM Culture Ministers have committed to this undertaking.

ASEM Culture Ministers welcomed Malaysia's offer to host the Third ASEM Culture Ministers Meeting in 2007, and Poland's offer to host the Fourth ASEM Culture Ministers Meeting, bound to constitute a new step forward in dialogue among cultures and civilizations.

Action Plan of Culture Ministers (Annex to the Chairman's Statement)

The ASEM Culture ministers decided to pursue following action plan:

- 1.** To propose to the Head of States and Governments at the next Summit hosted by Finland, in 2006, that ASEM Culture ministers meet regularly from now on, in order to follow up the plans and programmes decided at Beijing in December 2003 and Paris in June 2005, over the long term. Their next meetings could be combined with meetings of artists and cultural events. They suggested also that Culture Senior Officials could meet regularly in order to ensure the follow-up of the Action Plan and its related activities.
- 2.** To welcome Malaysia's offer to host the next ASEM Culture Ministers Meeting in 2007 and Poland's proposition to host the fourth one.
- 3.** To appoint, within the existing structures, Cultural Permanent Points of Contact – modelled on the ASEM Permanent Points of Contacts existing in foreign affairs ministries – to link their relevant administrations and to encourage flows of expertise.
- 4.** To contribute to the adoption, at the 33rd UNESCO's General Conference in October 2005, of the Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions.
- 5.** To further enhance networking amongst professionals in the cultural and audiovisual fields through existing professional networks. Major events, exhibitions and fairs will be leveraged on to set the platform for meetings.
- 6.** To promote exchanges and foster circulation in the areas of performances, exhibitions, literary works and audiovisual programmes between European and Asian countries.

7. To recognize the appeal of festivals and major events presenting the culture of a European country in Asia or vice versa, and to elaborate calendar of events.

8. To recognize the important role of the media and civil society, especially of cultural organizations, in promoting cultural diversity and dialogue amongst civilizations.

9. To facilitate the development of coproductions and cooperations between theatres, art centres, museums, publishers, audiovisual operators, as well as that of artist residences and training courses for young professionals to be organized on a reciprocal basis.

10. To encourage initiatives aimed at promoting understanding of the diverse cultures of partner countries particularly among the younger generation.

11. To encourage participation in cultural activities organized at ASEM Summits.

12. To pay special attention to projects regarding sustainable and responsible cultural tourism as well as the promotion of culture as a development factor.

13. To maintain the balance between enhancement and conservation of cultural resources, including the sites and monuments, as a factor of a sustainable cultural tourism.

14. To recognise the need to harness information and communication technologies to promote greater dialogue and cooperation among cultures and civilisations. The Ministers further recognise ASEF's efforts to develop the ASEM Cultural Portal to serve as a gateway to Asia-Europe cultural engagement, to enhance access to cultural information and to create greater mobility in the cultural field by providing multi-disciplinary and real-time information. Ministers support continuing efforts and investigations by ASEF leading to the creation of the ASEM Cultural Portal.

15. To rely on current structures for dialogue and cooperation. Within its remit and the limits of its resources, the Asia-Europe Foundation, which has developed for more than 8 years flagship programmes in the fields of young artists exchanges and contemporary artistic practices (such as photography, new media arts, choreography, music), independent cinema (e.g. SEA Images network), museums (e.g. ASEMUS), Dialogue on Policy and Culture, Dialogue on Cultures and Civilisations, and People to People exchanges, will participate in developing these projects and exploring these themes.

Appendix 22

Chairman's Statement of the 6th ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting, Tianjin, China

(26 June 2005)

I. Introduction

The Sixth ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM) was held in Tianjin, China, on 26 June 2005. It was attended by Finance Ministers of the ASEM member countries and the European Commission. The President of the Asian Development Bank, the Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, the Managing Director of the World Bank and the Vice President of the European Central Bank attended as guests. Ministers welcomed the participation of Finance Ministers of the thirteen new members.

His Excellency Wen Jiabao, Premier of the People's Republic of China, opened the meeting and emphasized the increasingly important role of the Finance Ministers in fulfilling the ASEM Leaders' Declaration on Closer ASEM Economic Partnership adopted by the ASEM Leaders at their Fifth Summit Meeting in Hanoi in October 2004.

Ministers convened under the policy theme of Closer ASEM Economic and Financial Cooperation. Ministers took stock of the current global and regional macroeconomic developments and discussed the policy challenges and responses to promote broad-based and sustainable growth in Asia and Europe. Ministers also exchanged views on the global development agenda. They reaffirmed their commitment to deepening the economic and financial cooperation between the two regions through constructive policy dialogues and action-oriented programs.

II. Global and Regional Economic Development

Ministers noted that the world economy performed very well in 2004, with the highest global growth in three decades. They expected global growth to remain robust in 2005, benefiting from still accommodative macroeconomic policies, improved corporate balance sheets and supportive financial conditions. On the regional prospects, Ministers noted that East Asia will continue to experience rapid growth and to serve as a major driver for the global economy. The euro area will see more modest growth, whereas emerging Europe will achieve well sustained growth in 2005.

Ministers also noted several downside risks to global and regional growth. Continued high and volatile oil prices pose a risk to global growth, including to oil-dependent emerging and developing economies. Another risk is that inflation, while currently subdued, could increase in some countries as the current global

expansion continues. It remains important to continue to avoid any second round effects of the oil price increase. Ministers called for increased production by the oil producing countries, improved provision of data on oil production, demand and stocks, and a climate conducive to oil investment throughout the supply chain. Ministers also stressed the importance of investing in new capacity, conserving energy, developing alternative fuels, and increasing energy efficiency. To this end, Ministers agreed on the need to improve the on-going coordination between the oil producing and consuming countries through strengthened dialogue, and to enhance transparency in the oil market.

Ministers expressed their serious concerns about the global imbalances. Ministers stressed the importance of reducing these imbalances to ensure stable and sustainable conditions for promoting global economic growth in the medium term. To this end, they recognized the need for a multi-pronged approach involving all countries concerned to implement appropriate policies to contribute to an orderly global readjustment.

III. International Development Agenda

Recognizing that achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is vital for sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction, Ministers reviewed the progress reports prepared by the World Bank and welcomed the achievements made in the Asian region but noted that the progress toward the MDGs so far had been uneven globally. Ministers reaffirmed their commitments to the MDGs and noted that urgent action is needed to meet them by 2015. Ministers called on the international community to fulfil the commitments they made in Monterrey in 2002.

Ministers recognized that constraints on financing for development are a major obstacle toward meeting the MDGs as scheduled and called on the donor community to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 percent of GNI as ODA. In this connection, Ministers welcomed the recent EU agreement to reach 0.7% ODA/GNI by 2015, with an interim collective target of 0.56% ODA/GNI by 2010, and welcomed the efforts in developing innovative financing mechanisms. Ministers also stressed the importance of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of aid.

Ministers welcomed the recent announcement of a proposal by the G8 Finance Ministers to provide additional funding to the international financial institutions to finance debt cancellation for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs) in London on 11 June, 2005, and urged the international community to further step up efforts, including at the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings in September 2005, to support the Enhanced HIPC Initiative.

Recognizing that trade is one of the key factors to sustaining global growth and reducing world poverty, Ministers stressed the need to strive for an ambitious and balanced outcome of the Doha Development Agenda, which would de-

liver real benefits to developing countries. Ministers strongly called for a package to be agreed at the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, China, December 2005, to pave the way for a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda by 2006. Ministers welcomed Cambodia, one of the thirteen new ASEM members, recently becoming a WTO member. Ministers also welcomed the efforts of non-WTO ASEM members in their process to WTO accession and expressed their strong support for early accession of Lao PDR and Vietnam to the WTO.

Ministers noted that adequate voice and participation, including all ASEM members of the IMF, should be assured, and the distribution of the quotas should reflect developments in the world economy. Ministers also noted that the Thirteenth General Review of Quotas provides an opportunity to make progress toward a consensus on the issues of quotas, voice, and participation.

IV. Closer ASEM Economic and Financial Cooperation

12. Ministers reviewed the progress of the ASEM economic and financial cooperation under the ASEM FMM and agreed to issue the TIANJIN INITIATIVE on Closer ASEM Economic and Financial Cooperation (see Annex), to strengthen the ASEM economic and financial cooperation through enhanced policy dialogue, technical assistance, and examining new approaches in further enhancing the Asia-Europe ties with a long term vision.

Ministers reaffirmed the important role that the ASEM Trust Fund (ATF) has played and agreed to examine the possibility of a successor facility, taking into account reviews of the previous performance of the ATF. Ministers emphasized the importance of capacity building in contributing to the shared prosperity of the two regions and welcomed the concrete activities carried out to this end, such as the implementation of the ASEM Bali Initiative. Ministers reviewed the ASEM Taskforce Report on Closer Economic Partnership, and welcomed its general recommendations, and noted the need for further studies on its concrete recommendations in the financial field, including the development of Asian bond markets. Ministers agreed on the establishment of an ASEM Contingency Dialogue Mechanism for Emergent Economic and Financial Events to strengthen the institutional capacity of ASEM to respond to emergencies.

V. Other Matters

Ministers endorsed the Finance Deputies' Recommendations on Enhancing the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the ASEM FMM. Ministers stressed the importance of bringing the role and the function of the ASEM FMM into full play and of strengthening the link with the ASEM Summit.

Ministers underscored the importance of supply chain security in facilitating trade and providing improved global security. They requested the related ASEM Customs fora to include the issue of supply chain security in their discussions,

including the implementation of the new framework currently being decided in the World Customs Organization, to identify the possible problems and solutions, including the need for technical assistance in the ASEM member countries.

VI. Future Meetings

Ministers agreed that the Seventh ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting will be held under the Chairmanship of Austria in 2006. Ministers agreed, at the next meeting, to take stock of the policy actions and progress achieved against their recommendations, and asked their Deputies to work out the agenda of the next meeting. This Chairman's Statement will constitute the Finance Ministers' inputs to the Sixth ASEM Summit.

Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Chinese authorities for their excellent arrangement of the meeting and the warm hospitality offered by the people of Tianjin.

VII. Annex

TIANJIN INITIATIVE on Closer ASEM Economic and Financial Cooperation

Appendix 23

Chairman's Statement of the High Level Meeting within the Framework of the ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

(16-17 September 2005)

1. A High Level Meeting within the framework of the ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting took place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands from 16-17 September 2005. The meeting was introduced by Mr. Laurens Jan Brinkhorst, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs for the Netherlands, and Mr Ian Pearson MP, Minister of State for Trade for the UK. It was chaired by Mr Dirk Bruinsma. Senior Officials responsible for Trade and Investment attended from thirteen Asian countries, with Indonesia and Korea acting on their behalf as co-ordinators, and from the twenty-five Member States of the European Union, co-ordinated by the United Kingdom, in its role as President of the Council of the European Union, and the European Commission.

2. In his opening remarks, Mr Brinkhorst recognised the importance of this meeting as an opportunity for the newly enlarged ASEM membership to discuss vital economic issues affecting trade and investment relations between the 39 ASEM Partners, in the run-up to the critical Hong Kong Ministerial. He also noted the need for ASEM Partners to consider their approaches to energy issues at a time of record oil prices, and pointed to the ever-increasing need to strengthen European-Asian relations in the light of global and regional economic developments.

Strengthening the economic relationship

3. China, as host of the 10th ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting on Trade and Investment (SOMTI 10) which took place in Qingdao from 18-19 July 2005, presented the main results and recommendations agreed by SOMTI Leaders.

4. ASEM Partners appreciated the efforts made to achieve progress during the past two years in the implementation of TFAP and IPAP, including the realisation of TFAP Goals for 2002-2004, as detailed in the SOMTI 10 Chairman's Summary.

5. In particular, they reiterated their intention to concentrate future activities on a limited set of high priority areas where immediate action could contribute to reducing or eliminating trade barriers. They also endorsed three new initiatives, namely, a forum and exhibition on tourism and investment co-operation to be organised by China, a seminar on tourism to be organised by Portugal, and a seminar on energy to be co-organised by Japan and the European Commission.

Moreover, ASEM Partners welcomed the offer by China to host the fifth ASEM E-Commerce Conference in 2006.

6. ASEM Partners welcomed the outcome of the ASEM Trade and Investment Expo held on September 7-11 in Xiamen, China, as a follow-up to the Hanoi Declaration.

Reinforcing Interaction with the Business Community

7. Mr Christoffer Taxell, the Chair of the AEBF 10, which is scheduled to take place in Finland during 2006 in conjunction with ASEM6, raised a number of issues that are critical for business in both continents and where ASEM governments have a role to play. He emphasised his intention to attract substantive and representative participation by identifying a concise set of timely and interesting themes appropriate to Asian and European business interests.

8. ASEM Partners welcomed his efforts to improve the continuity and co-ordination of the AEBF, recognising that ensuring the continuing legitimacy and relevance of ASEM Economic Pillar activities requires a more active and substantive engagement from the business community, including closer interaction between business representatives and ASEM Leaders and Ministers. They encouraged business to pay greater attention to identifying objectives and activities of interest under the TFAP and IPAP, as well as in defining requirements for future Economic Pillar projects.

Addressing Opportunities and Challenges Arising from Global and Regional Economic Developments

9. Noting the continuing rapid evolution of bilateral and regional trade agreements (RTAs) in both Asia and Europe, ASEM Partners examined the potential ramifications and influence on future relations between the two continents. In this respect, they stressed the importance of reinforcing existing co-ordination activities to promote a shared awareness of the benefits, as well as ensuring that mutual economic interest is not adversely affected.

10. During their discussion, ASEM Partners also considered the possible consequences of such developments for the multilateral trading system, in order to foster a collective understanding between ASEM members. While highlighting the important role that RTAs may play in building upon and enhancing WTO rules by promoting faster and more extensive liberalisation and integration efforts, they identified a number of good practices capable of assisting parties to an RTA in achieving such positive results and improving the quality of their RTAs. In particular, many delegations underlined the importance of working jointly to aim for

better quality RTAs, and the need to make progress in clarifying and improving WTO rules for RTAs.

Developing Future ASEM Co-operation on the Field of Energy

11. In recognition of the merit of the recommendation originating from the ASEM Task Force to consider common Asian and European energy concerns and foster a policy dialogue on energy-related objectives, a special session focusing on energy took place. This provided an initial opportunity for ASEM Partners to discuss the energy sector, with the aim of identifying relevant issues for future consideration.

12. This subject was introduced by Mr Jeroen van der Veer, Chief Executive of Royal Dutch Shell plc. In his remarks, Mr van der Veer underlined three challenges facing ASEM Partners: security of energy supply, the CO₂ debate, and the need for a stable and consistent framework for investment.

13. ASEM Partners expressed their interest in pursuing closer co-operation on this subject and welcomed the plans of Japan to organise a seminar on energy with the assistance of the European Commission in January 2006, building upon the work of JODI as facilitated by the IEF Secretariat.

14. During the discussions, the importance of a climate conducive to investment in refining capacity and several forms of renewable energy were highlighted. The importance of the framework of the Energy Charter Treaty was noted.

Encouraging Progress in the Doha Development Agenda

15. ASEM partners asserted their undiminished commitment to an ambitious and balanced outcome of the Doha Development Agenda in 2006, which they considered a unique opportunity to further liberalise trade, whilst supporting development, on the basis of stronger multilateral rules. All WTO Members would need to act with a heightened sense of urgency and take a pro-active approach leading to a substantial step forward at the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial meeting on 13-18 December 2005.

16. Measurable progress should be made on all issues in the Doha Development Agenda, addressing the needs and interests of all WTO Members. In particular improved market access, especially for exports of interest to developing countries, would contribute to further growth and development.

17. With regard to agriculture, which is a central component of the DDA, parallel and balanced progress was needed on all three pillars. The importance of the

proposal put forward by the G-20 on market access was noted. The ASEM Partners also reiterated their resolve and commitment to achieve substantial reductions in trade distorting domestic support, and to phase out all forms of export support within a credible timeframe. The issue of special products and the special safeguard mechanism as a concern was also raised.

18. As regards negotiations on non-agricultural market access (NAMA), ASEM Partners committed to continue to make substantive progress in achieving full convergence on core elements of modalities for NAMA, to bring about substantial and commercially meaningful improvements in market access. In particular, there was strong support for a Swiss formula with negotiated coefficients as the central tariff reduction mechanism to be applied on a line-by-line basis. The outcome should offer gains for all Members and address existing disparities between Members, including through lower and more uniform tariff levels between and within Members' tariff structures taking into account the principle of less than full reciprocity in reduction commitments. Special and differential treatment provisions that take into account special needs and interests of developing and least developed countries would also be necessary. ASEM Partners also noted the need for a common understanding of the voluntary sectoral initiatives that Members consider necessary, either to expand existing sectoral agreements with sufficient flexibilities for developing countries or to promote greater harmonisation than could be achieved through the formula in particular for some specific products or sub-sectors of interest to developing countries.

19. With regard to services, we recognise the need to intensify efforts to advance the negotiations towards a substantive final outcome. In this context, the issue of complementary approaches was also raised. Members that had not yet done so should immediately submit their offers.

20. On development, partners stressed the need to work towards adopting a meaningful package of special and differential treatment in Hong Kong including at least the 5 LDCs' proposals and the 28 proposals left over from Cancun. ASEM Partners noted that the special concerns of recently acceded members should be addressed effectively. Developed countries needed to improve the quantity, quality and co-ordination of trade-related development aid. An essential contribution to the development agenda of the round was an agreement on the objective of duty-free and quota-free market access for all exports from all LDCs by developed countries and developing countries in a position to do so.

21. Further trade liberalisation should proceed hand-in-hand with the strengthening and further development of WTO rules including on regional trade agreements. Anti-dumping disciplines were also raised, underlining that substantial results in this field are essential. The importance of beginning text based-nego-

tiations at the latest from Hong Kong onwards was noted. The need for progress in the Geographical Indications negotiations was also raised.

22. On trade facilitation, Partners pledged to pursue negotiations actively, while recalling the importance of technical assistance and capacity building to developing countries to support the necessary reforms and their implementation. A meaningful package of provisions should be developed for adoption at Hong Kong so that text-based negotiations on Trade Facilitation can begin.

23. ASEM Partners also reiterated their continuing support for the urgent conclusion of the accession negotiations of Vietnam and Laos to the WTO.

24. ASEM Partners conveyed their appreciation for the role that Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi played as Director-General of the WTO over the past three years and offered their full support to DG Pascal Lamy who took office on 1 September 2005.

Follow up and next meeting

25. Finland informed the ASEM Partners of preparations for the ASEM Summit, to be held in Helsinki on 14-15 September 2006, which will provide Heads of State and Government with an opportunity to discuss the key issues relating to Asia-Europe economic co-operation. As outlined in the Kyoto FMM Chairman's Statement, questions relating to energy will be discussed at the Summit, and the issues of competitiveness and globalisation are also likely to be addressed.

ASEM Partners agreed that the next EMM should aim to be held prior to the ASEM6 Summit.

Appendix 24

Chairman's Statement of the 7th ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting, Vienna

(8-9 April 2006)

The seventh ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM) was held in Vienna, Austria on 8/9 April, 2006. It was attended by the Finance Ministers from the ASEM Member Countries and the European Commission. High level officials of the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the European Central Bank attended as guests.

Austrian Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel opened the meeting and emphasised the important role of the ASEM process as a platform for the dialogue and co-operation between Asia and Europe. He recognised the important contribution of Finance Ministers in this regard. He stressed the important role the Finance Ministers' Meeting had for the upcoming Summit in Finland.

General economic situation

Ministers discussed global economic developments and prospects and appropriate policy responses with the objective to secure a more balanced and sustained global economic expansion in their countries.

They noted that global economic growth has been strong in 2005 and throughout the first months of 2006, with Asia and the United States continuing to be the engines of global growth. EU countries and Japan, while growing more slowly, also showed signs of domestic demand picking up and improving sentiment which should feed through to more robust activity. Prudent macroeconomic policies, combined with forward-looking structural policies (e. g. R&D, education, infrastructure) were called for in order to sustain growth in Asia and Europe.

Ministers noted further that high and volatile oil prices, persistently large global imbalances, faster than currently expected tightening of global financial conditions and emerging protectionist tendencies, as well as increased frequency of low probability – high impact catastrophic events, such as natural disasters and avian flu outbreak, continue to constitute the main downside risks for the global outlook. They stressed the importance of developing appropriate policy approaches to address these challenges.

Acknowledging the persistent threat of an avian flu pandemic, Ministers underscored the need to make further progress in national response planning and regional coordination.

Energy, oil prices

Ministers noted that the recent oil price increases so far had a relatively limited economic impact due to a generally favourable international environment, improved energy efficiency and more economic flexibility and resilience among Member Countries than during previous oil price hikes. Still, effects on ASEM Countries were asymmetric, with some, especially less developed, countries being severely affected. Ministers noted further that it is important to avoid second round effects on wages which would drive up inflation.

Ministers agreed that a sustained stabilisation of oil markets requires encompassing efforts both on the demand and supply side. Ministers reiterated their call for investment in energy efficiency, increased oil production and refining capacity and for improved data on oil production, demand, reserves and stocks. They also called for an enhanced regular dialogue between oil producing and oil consuming countries and the facilitation of transferring energy-saving technologies. Ministers agreed to cooperate in the relevant international fora with a view to meeting these challenges. They welcomed the proposal for a European energy strategy contained in the Commission's Green Paper and noted the importance of the Energy Charter as an element conducive to the attainment of some of the above goals. They noted the importance of the full pass through of oil price increases.

Global imbalances

Ministers noted that global imbalances have widened since the last meeting and stressed the importance of reducing these imbalances to ensure stable and sustainable conditions for promoting global economic growth in the medium term. To this end, they recognized the need for a multi-pronged approach involving all countries concerned to implement appropriate policies to contribute to an orderly global readjustment.

Bretton Woods Governance Issues

Ministers exchanged views on quota misalignments and enhanced representation of emerging and other Member Countries in the Bretton Woods Institutions. They agreed that fair voice and a distribution of quotas reflecting developments in the world economy would improve representation and ownership of these institutions by all Member Countries. They agreed on the need to make progress and to ensure a cooperative solution, including on burden-sharing, by the next IMF and World Bank Annual Meeting in Singapore.

Anti Money Laundering (AML)

Ministers welcomed the progress on AML and combating terrorism financing (CTF) since the last discussion of this issue in Bali 2003. They encouraged all countries to comply with the FATF's recommendations on AML and CTF. A substantive dialogue was held with the Myanmar delegation on their AML and combating terrorism financing efforts, as parts of an adequate rule-of-law regime. European countries stressed their dissatisfaction with the situation in Myanmar and urged Myanmar to implement all international treaties and standards. Ministers acknowledged the legal and implementational efforts Myanmar had made in recent years, which would contribute to bringing Myanmar into the fold of compliant countries.

Making Globalisation a Success for All

Ministers had a detailed discussion on opportunities and challenges posed by the process of globalisation and the emerging international division of labor. Therefore, while protectionism has to be resisted, effective policies need to address the challenges posed by adjustment costs and to seize the opportunities provided by globalisation.

They further agreed that such policies should include a certain number of common features valid across all countries, irrespective of their level of income, notwithstanding important differences in immediate priority areas for action and practical details. Key to seizing the opportunities is a climate conducive to business and infrastructure investment, flexible product and labour markets, abundance of adequately qualified labor, functioning financial markets and a policy focus on education and research and development. Of equal importance to tackle the challenges is an adequate system of social protection, with a focus on empowering disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

They concurred that adequate protection of vulnerable groups both in developed and less developed countries does not only have social and humanitarian value, but that a well designed system can enhance incentives to work and support productivity growth. A functioning social safety net, which enhances the right balance between security and flexibility, can also help secure broad and sustained support for an open and liberal system for global trade and investment which is the backbone of a dynamic global economy. In the ASEM context, the exchange of best practices regarding labor market flexibility and social protection systems is most welcome.

They agreed that both countries of origin and destination of migration had to safeguard smooth and orderly migration flows, combat human trafficking and exploitation of migrants and enable remittances to be transferred safely and cheaply. Ministers opined that increasing migration flows require intensive cooperation between countries of origin and countries of destination.

Ministers agreed that additional progress is needed in the following three areas:

- To successfully conclude the Doha Development Agenda, reaching a balanced outcome in all sectors and areas of negotiations while giving less developed countries special and differentiated treatment.
- To make progress with the timely attainment of the Millennium Development Goals through combined intensified efforts by development partners.
- To develop adequate communication strategies both at national and international levels in order to increase understanding and acceptance of policies promoting globalisation.

Practical Aspects of the cooperation between Asia and Europe

Ministers took note of progress reports on ASEM Countries' cooperative initiatives during the past year and of the positive assessment on the efficiency and effectiveness of the ASEM Trust Fund. They agreed that efforts, mainly in the policy dialogue and capacity building fields should be continued through ASEM channels and asked the European Commission to explore further with Asian and European partners on how to establish such a new instrument. Ministers also approved the Terms of Reference of a new ASEM Contingency Dialogue Mechanism for Emergent Economic and Financial events. Ministers welcomed the ASEM workshops held recently on debt management (London) and on accounting issues (Shanghai).

Ministers listened to the ADB's proposal for the installation of an ADB Carbon Market Initiative which could be beneficial both for the Asian and EU countries. They welcomed this initiative and highlighted the need for linkages and coordination with existing and developing schemes.

On the basis of the request formulated in the conclusions of the Tianjin meeting, Customs Commissioners and Directors General (DGs) have made the issue of supply chain security a priority of Customs work. They agreed that further measures which will contribute in the ASEM context to implement the World Customs Organisation (WCO) Framework of Standards will be explored during a joint meeting of the Enforcement and Procedures Working Groups, which will be organised by Poland in September 2006, in order reach conclusions that contribute to the creation of smart and secure trade lanes between Asia and Europe.

Future Meetings

Ministers agreed to gladly accept the offer by Korea to host the next ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting in 2008, as well as a Deputies' Meeting in 2007. They expressed their wish to have the results of this meeting reported to the ASEM Summit in Finland. Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Austrian au-

thorities for their excellent arrangement of the meeting and the warm hospitality offered by the people of Vienna.

Appendix 25

Chairman's Conclusions of the 1st ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers' Conference, Potsdam, Germany

(3-5 September 2006)

1. Under the title "More and Better Jobs – Working Jointly to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Globalisation" the first ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers' Conference was held in Potsdam, Germany, on 3-5 September, 2006. It was attended by the Labour and Employment Ministers from the ASEM Member Countries and by the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunity of the European Commission. The meeting was chaired by German Vice Chancellor and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Franz Müntefering.

Globalisation and employment – common challenges and opportunities

2. German Vice Chancellor Franz Müntefering opened the meeting and emphasised the important role of the ASEM process as a platform for the dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. He welcomed this first opportunity for Labour and Employment Ministers to contribute to the ASEM process in response notably to the mandate by the 2004 Hanoi ASEM5 Summit to expand cooperation in areas of common interest such as employment, as well as to address strategic and longer-term political dimensions of major economic policy issues such as globalisation and its related social challenges.

3. He pointed out that globalisation, international division of labour and the need for restructuring have strongly affected both Asia and Europe and increased the interdependencies between these two regions. Even though there have been different developments regarding employment and investment policies, both regions are facing common challenges. This conference in the year of the 10th anniversary of the ASEM process reveals the importance of exchanging views, experiences and political strategies of shaping globalisation and maximizing its benefits. Vice Chancellor Müntefering further stressed the important role the Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting would have for the upcoming summit in Finland.

4. Ministers congratulated Vice Chancellor Franz Müntefering for having taken this important initiative and underlined the importance of a close and productive dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe on employment and social policy. They recalled the increasing importance of Asia-EU relations, including a growing number of dialogues and cooperation initiatives between the EU and

Asian countries. Ministers further underlined the key role of full and productive employment, decent work for all, and social cohesion for sustainable socio-economic development, as recognised notably in the 2005 UN Summit conclusions. In this context Ministers also welcomed the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation. European representatives stressed the EU's increasing activity to include employment, decent work and regional and social cohesion into its external policies, including development, trade and external cooperation.

5. Ministers further discussed opportunities and challenges related to globalisation, the international division of labour and restructuring and prospects and appropriate policy responses with the objective to jointly maximise the benefits of globalisation and extend its benefits to all. While they noted the importance of making globalisation a success for all, they also acknowledged the need to resist protectionist approaches. Achieving both objectives requires good governance, effective social protection and effective policies to address the challenges posed by adjustment costs, to mitigate economic and social imbalances both within and among countries, to promote access to decent work

for all, including for women and young people and to seize the opportunities provided by globalisation. It also requires policies to respect and promote human and social rights, particularly those set out in the ILO Decent Work agenda and in the ILO 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, which cover the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the effective abolition of child labour, the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right of collective bargaining.

6. Key policies in this respect are effective education, employment and social policies, providing adequate systems of social protection, supporting the anticipation and management of change, promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, investing more and more efficiently in human capital and strengthening regional cooperation and global governance. Ministers shared the view that such policies should include a certain number of common features valid across all countries, irrespective of their level of income, notwithstanding important differences in immediate priority areas for action and practical details.

7. Some Ministers referred to the 95th International Labour Conference held in Geneva where the case of Myanmar and the Forced Labour Convention 1930 (No. 29) was discussed. They recalled the conclusions on Myanmar adopted by this conference, reiterating the need for the Myanmar authorities to show action and follow-up on these conclusions. The representative of Myanmar briefed the Minis-

ters about recent developments in Myanmar and mentioned that Myanmar would report to the next session of the Governing Body of the ILO in November.

Working jointly to strengthen the social dimension of globalisation

8. Ministers welcomed the exchange of best practices regarding labour market and employment policies and social protection in the ASEM context. They addressed concrete ways to strengthen the social dimension of globalisation and promote decent work for all in three separate workshop sessions:

I. Growth and employment – how can positive interaction be enhanced?

9. Irrespective of their historical, political and development background, ministers of ASEM countries agreed that economic, employment and social policies are mutually reinforcing and should be coherent. In particular, they stressed that high and sustainable economic growth and sound economic framework conditions are the key for the creation of more and better jobs. They underlined that migration is a major element of globalisation which can be an important factor for economic growth and employment and called for an effective management of migration processes.

10. Employment and social policies should promote sustainable employment creation, more and better jobs and more productive employment, improve employment intensity of growth, provide security as well as flexibility in the labour market and in employment, strengthen employability and adaptability and promote employment creation in the formal sector. They should promote decent work for all, support gender equality, improve the quality of jobs and occupational health and safety in the workplace and provide employment opportunities for vulnerable and disadvantaged people. They should involve and mobilize all relevant stakeholders, including the social partners. Decent work is the key to sustainable productivity growth and vice versa. The demographic change highlights the central importance of sustainable productivity growth and decent work in achieving higher economic growth and better employment. Technological development, investments in R&D and human capital, occupational and regional mobility of labour through active labour market policies and the quality and attractiveness of working life are the cornerstones of sustainable productivity growth and higher employment.

11. Ministers agreed that enterprises can bring substantial benefits to sustainable economic growth, social welfare, and the creation of decent work. These positive and voluntary contributions can be strengthened when Corporate So-

cial Responsibility is part of the core business of each company. With regard to Corporate Social Responsibility governments should facilitate and stimulate this process, taking the role of an agent for change, bringing different parties together and inviting them to engage in innovative cooperation. In this context Ministers underlined the importance of the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the UN Global Compact.

II. Investment in human capital – key factor for economic progress and social inclusion

12. Ministers stressed the importance of education, training policies and competencies in view of increasing labour mobility and integration of immigrants. Lifelong learning improves employees' security and readiness to adapt to the changes caused by restructuring and unemployment. Responsible political leadership calls for collection of labour market and education data, monitoring of the progress made, collecting best practices, setting up benchmarks on a national and international basis and anticipating the key competencies needed in the future. Increasing productivity, labour market participation, social inclusion and competitiveness requires quality education and training systems.

13. Lifelong learning has an important role in the future, particularly for young people, women and people over 50. Learning in schools and vocational training institutions has to become more attractive and demand-led, as school drop-outs and low-skilled workers will otherwise remain a continuous challenge to social security systems. Comprehensive systems of guidance, counselling and placement services need to be further developed. Recognition of non-formal learning and training certificates among regions will add to employment security and re-integration in the labour market.

14. Education and training policies should reduce school drop-outs, promote self-independence of the youth, favour labour market-oriented vocational training and promote lifelong learning. They should provide competencies for the knowledge-society to develop domestic human resources that are competitive in the globalised economy.

III. Regional cooperation to strengthen the social dimension of globalisation

15. Ministers agreed that regional cooperation is a good way to strengthen the social dimension of globalisation. Ministers are aware that despite the different levels of development of the ASEM countries, social imbalances may exist everywhere and may be aggravated by globalisation. Therefore, they reiterated the need for fair globalisation.

16. Strengthening the social dimension of globalisation requires international cooperation and exchange of experience, policy concepts and best practices. Ministers insisted on reinforcing regional cooperation which could offer a good basis for interregional dialogue as became evident in this conference. Topics of further ASEM cooperation could be: vocational training and lifelong learning, **m**migration issues, implementing decent work and occupational health and safety at work.

17. Further cooperation should also try to involve the social partners and other **r**elevant actors in an appropriate way.

Future cooperation and meetings

18. Ministers agreed to cooperate in the relevant international fora, including in the UN and notably the ILO, the WTO and the World Bank / Bretton Woods institutions, with a view to improving coherence on purpose of strengthening the social dimension of globalisation and meeting the related challenges. They took note of the need for ASEM in the future to further strengthen the substantive dialogue and cooperation in a number of areas, including employment and social policy.

19. They expressed their wish to have the results of this meeting reported to the ASEM6 Summit in Finland. They called upon the summit to endorse their proposal of a regular ASEM dialogue and cooperation on employment and social policy, including seminars with specific topics of mutual interests which have to be decided upon. Ministers agreed to accept the kind offer of Indonesia to host the second ASEM Labour and Employment Minister Conference in 2008. Ministers expressed their appreciation to the German authorities for their excellent arrangement of the meeting and the warm hospitality offered by the Land of Brandenburg and the people of Potsdam.

Appendix 26

Declaration of the 4th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP), Helsinki

(4 - 5 May 2006)

1. The Fourth Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP IV) was held in Helsinki on 4-5 May 2006. At the invitation of Mr Paavo Lipponen, Speaker of the Parliament of Finland, parliamentarians from ASEM member countries and the European Parliament attended the Meeting. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the Asia-Europe Foundation, the Asia-Europe Business Forum and the Asia-Europe People's Forum were invited to attend the Meeting as Guests of the Host. (List of delegates available at www.asep4.fi)

Mr Matti Vanhanen, Prime Minister, addressed the Meeting as representative of the Government of Finland, and as the host of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM VI) to be held in Helsinki in September 2006.

2. Inaugurating the Meeting, Mr Paavo Lipponen, Speaker of Parliament, warmly welcomed the parliamentarians and guests to the Meeting.

3. ASEP Parliamentarians, recalling their previous Meetings in Strasbourg (1996), Manila (2002) and Hue City (2004), held comprehensive, in-depth and fruitful discussions on a wide range of issues of shared interest and concern.

The year 2006 marks the tenth anniversary of Asia-Europe partnership through ASEM. ASEP Parliamentarians salute ASEM and its valuable work in its Tenth Year. The Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership also marks its tenth anniversary. ASEP Parliamentarians want to celebrate this tenth anniversary of closer Asia-Europe cooperation by forging a stronger link between ASEM and ASEP, thus strengthening the parliamentary dimension of the Asia-Europe partnership.

International Cooperation and Multilateralism

4. ASEP Parliamentarians express their common view that multilateral cooperation and strong international institutions remain the basis for developing international cooperation. Working through the United Nations and developing regional and inter-regional cooperation is crucial to world peace, security and the harmonious development of international relations.

5. ASEP parliamentarians emphasize their commitment to a strong, open, transparent and fair trading system. ASEP parliamentarians agreed to renew their call to ASEM to contribute to the successful conclusion of the Doha Development

Agenda. WTO agreements need to ensure an ambitious, balanced and feasible liberalization agenda. Both Asia and Europe have a crucial stake in ensuring that the world economic system develops in a balanced fashion to ensure fair globalisation, which brings benefits to all, and to foster economic competitiveness both in Asia and Europe.

Strengthening the Asia-Europe Partnership

6. ASEP Parliamentarians underline the fundamental importance of developing closer ties between Asia and Europe as a crucial pillar in the global system. ASEM provides an important linkage between these regions and should be further developed. ASEP Parliamentarians note that economic ties – trade and investment – between Asia and Europe are deepening at an ever growing pace and should be complemented by developing a more comprehensive political dialogue, promoting and restoring human rights, furthering cultural exchanges and developing mutual understanding and action over common problems facing humanity, inter alia development, security and the environment.

7. The economic inter-connectedness of Asia and Europe is growing at an ever increasing pace. ASEP Parliamentarians underscore that economic integration and exchanges need to be complemented by deepening political cooperation in addressing issues of common interest. Transport and logistics between Asia and Europe can be further strengthened by also developing land-links between Asia and Europe. Energy policy – both production and conservation – should also have a more prominent role in Asia-Europe cooperation.

8. ASEP Parliamentarians underscore that further efforts should be made to achieve closer ASEM Economic Partnership. ASEM governments should engage the business community and the Asia-Europe Business Forum more directly in the strengthening of economic cooperation between Asia and Europe.

9. ASEP Parliamentarians emphasize that the world is indivisible and interdependent. Persistent imbalances exist in development, prosperity, social and normative conditions, resources and environmental circumstances. These imbalances are not sustainable in the long run and further efforts should be made by the international community, regional cooperation and states themselves to address these imbalances between regions, states and within countries.

10. ASEP Parliamentarians underline the fact that the security agenda, relevant to today's world and also pertinent to Asia-Europe Cooperation, is wider than ever and needs to focus on issues that are predominantly non-military by nature. These wider security concerns, so called new threats, include issues like global pandemics, communicable diseases, natural disasters, illegal migration, terror-

ism, human trafficking and transnational organised crime at large. Open societies are increasingly vulnerable to these new threats and ASEP Parliamentarians emphasize the fact that increasing international cooperation is the best way to deal with these new threats and call on ASEM to take a proactive approach in dealing with this security agenda.

Climate Change and Economic Implications

11. The environment is indivisible and its preservation is crucial to the international community at large. ASEP Parliamentarians had a thorough discussion on climate change and international efforts to address it. ASEP Parliamentarians emphasize that climate change is an undisputed fact and underlined that all countries should act with resolve and urgency to meet the shared and multiple objectives of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving the global environment, and dealing with air pollution in conjunction with their resolute efforts to reduce poverty.

12. ASEP Parliamentarians underline that multilateral agreements, especially the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, are indispensable tools in addressing climate change and call for the substantial development of international efforts to tackle climate change and urge all partners to contribute to these efforts. ASEP Parliamentarians took note of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment. ASEP Parliamentarians underscore the importance of attaining inclusive international agreements over climate change and the efforts to address it. ASEP Parliamentarians encourage the ASEM Summit to produce a declaration on climate change and the international community's efforts to address it.

13. ASEP Parliamentarians recognize the fact that all countries have a right to economic development. Therefore, sustainable development needs major and sustained efforts to promote economic growth within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by addressing and, where appropriate, de-linking economic growth from environmental degradation through improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources. ASEP Parliamentarians also recognised that improved energy security and access to reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy services contribute to the eradication of poverty as called for in the Millennium Development Goals. Developed countries should take the lead in furthering sustainable development and assisting developing countries both financially and technically with this aim.

Education and Mobility – Asia-Europe Cultural Exchange

14. ASEP Parliamentarians emphasize that cultural diversity is an invaluable asset in international relations. ASEP Parliamentarians had a thorough discussion on education and mobility, including cultural exchanges in the Asia-Europe Context. Cultural exchanges, including dialogue among cultures and civilizations and interfaith dialogue, should play an important role in Asia-Europe cooperation and international cooperation at large. ASEP Parliamentarians call for a further development of a common cultural space and takes favourable note of the Action Plan of ASEM Culture Ministers. ASEP Parliamentarians acknowledge the significant role of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in furthering this aim.

15. ASEP Parliamentarians recognise and appreciate the fact that direct links between non-governmental organizations and civil society groups can contribute to furthering a dialogue among cultures and civilizations, and with this aim in mind, ask the ASEM governments to strengthen the role of the Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF).

16. ASEP Parliamentarians recognise the importance of mobility – of people, ideas and labour - between Asia and Europe in developing a lasting basis for a mutually beneficial Asia-Europe partnership. Education and Research should be vanguards of mobility between Asia and Europe. ASEP Parliamentarians emphasize the value of young people's exchanges – in universities, companies and public administration – as a future bridge between Asia and Europe, and believe that further efforts should be put in developing youth exchange programmes as well as in developing a closer cooperation between the Asia-Europe Young Parliamentarians Meeting and ASEP.

17. ASEP Parliamentarians call on ASEM to task ASEM Education Ministers to develop an ambitious and concrete action plan on furthering exchange programmes for youth and young professionals – both professional and educational – and in higher education and research to be presented to the ASEM VII meeting. Asia-Europe should have an ambitious student exchange program in the fashion of Europe's Erasmus-programme and dedicated ASEM-scholarships to encourage student and academic exchanges between Asia and Europe. ASEP Parliamentarians underline that these exchanges should also foster a more widespread study of Asian languages and culture in Europe and European languages and culture in Asia. ASEP Parliamentarians are convinced of the fundamental importance of youth and educational exchanges as a foundation for a closer and mutually beneficial Asia-Europe cooperation. With this aim in mind, ASEP Parliamentarians, endorsing the joint proposal of the National Assembly of Vietnam and the European Parliament, extend ASEP's support to the series of European Higher Education Fairs being organized by the European Commission and EU member states in

successive Asian capitals and call on European and Asian students and scholars to take an active part in their organization.

Developing the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership

18. ASEP warmly welcome parliamentarians from new ASEM members to the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership. New members add to the already substantial weight and importance of ASEM on the global stage, in terms of economic and political weight, trade and population. ASEP Parliamentarians believe that interparliamentary dialogue between Asia and Europe can provide new avenues for dialogue in inter alia development, security issues, human rights, trade issues and energy policies.

19. With the aim of substantiating the Asia-Europe Partnership, ASEP Parliamentarians adopted Rules of Procedure for Asia-Europe Parliamentary Meetings. ASEP Parliamentarians are grateful to the National Assembly of Vietnam for presiding over the preparatory work of drafting these rules of procedure. ASEP Parliamentarians believe that these rules of procedure provide a clear basis for organising ASEP work.

20. ASEP Parliamentarians emphasize that the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership should retain its informal nature, in order to facilitate a direct and flexible dialogue between ASEP parliamentarians. With this end in mind, ASEP Parliamentarians find it important that the ASEP work between ASEP meetings also in the future is presided over and organised by the host parliament of the upcoming ASEP meeting, with the kind support of ASEP member parliaments.

21. ASEP Parliamentarians emphasize the link between parliaments of Asia and Europe and ASEM. ASEP needs to make an active parliamentary contribution to the ASEM process and in particular to Summit Meetings. With this aim in mind, ASEP Parliamentarians endorse the principle that ASEP Meetings should be held bi-annually before ASEM Summit Meetings. The parliament of the ASEM member state hosting the ASEM Summit shall have a priority to host the ASEP meeting the same year, in order to provide for a direct link between ASEP and ASEM Summit preparations.

22. ASEP Parliamentarians deem it important that in the future the ASEP President always communicates the ASEP Declaration to the ASEM Summit. ASEP Parliamentarians encouraged the host of the ASEM VI Summit, the Prime Minister of Finland, to invite the President of ASEP IV to address the ASEM VI Summit in Helsinki.

23. The ASEP IV delegates expressed their gratitude to the Parliament of Finland for organising the ASEP IV meeting and to Speaker Paavo Lipponen for presiding over the meeting.

24. The ASEP parliamentarians noted with appreciation the intention of the National People's Congress of China to host ASEP V and look forward to meeting in China in the first half of 2008.

25. The ASEP parliamentarians took note that the functions of the President of the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership will be transferred from the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament to the President of the National People's Congress of China with the closing of the ASEM VI meeting in September 2006, as provided in the rules of procedure of Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meetings.

Helsinki, 5 May 2006

Appendix 27

Chairman's Statement of the 10th Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF), Helsinki

(10-11 September 2006)

The 10th Asia-Europe Business Forum was held in Helsinki on September 10-11, in parallel with the ASEM6 Summit. The Forum was chaired by Mr Christoffer Taxell, the President of the Confederation of Finnish Industries.

Hundreds of leading business representatives and government officials from both Asia and Europe participated in the Forum.

AEBF10 participants were invited to meet the ASEM6 Heads of State and Government at the ASEM6 Summit Reception on 10 September 2006.

Mr Wan Jifei, the Chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), welcomed the participants to the next AEBF to be held in Beijing, China, in 2008.

The participants stressed the need to ensure continuity of AEBF dialogue between the AEBF meetings. This could be ensured through a permanent secretarial liaison and by focused actions under the flag of the AEBF. In addition, and in order to further strengthen the visibility of the AEBF, the participants adopted the logo of the 10th meeting as the permanent logo of the AEBF.

General themes

The general theme for AEBF10 was Partnership for Sustainable Growth. This reflected the joint task of the two regions to work together to create conditions for growth, which is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

Globalisation and new challenges have brought Europe and Asia closer together. The forum emphasized that the AEBF countries need to reinforce the co-operation in a determined way to remove obstacles and grasp the new economic opportunities that are present.

AEBF10 discussed issues in plenary sessions concerning globalisation, competitiveness, energy and multilateralism. They all relate to the joint challenges to which AEBF countries need to find joint solutions, as has been recognised in the agenda of the ASEM6 Summit.

There is a lot that businesses from Asia and Europe can learn from each other. Differences between the two regions and the benefits and obstacles this creates for companies were also discussed in the plenary sessions.

The need for increased interaction between governments and AEBF representatives has often been recognized. The AEBF10 Chair was represented in the

10th Senior Official Meeting on Trade and Investment (SOMTI) in Qingdao, China in July 2005, and in the Economic Ministers' Meeting (EMM) in Rotterdam in September 2005.

The AEBF has repeatedly suggested practical measures on how to increase the interaction between officials and the AEBF, with the AEBF producing more focused and realistic recommendations that their governments need to properly implement.

In view of that, the preparations for AEBF10 were conducted in close contact with the official side of the ASEM process. The number of Working Groups was limited to five and the discussion topics were carefully chosen to reflect the most relevant issues for business and to create focused recommendations.

The AEBF participants also expressed their concern about the lack of efficient implementation of AEBF recommendations and urged the ASEM governments to vigorously step up their actions to this end.

On the basis of the two-day discussions, the AEBF produced a set of recommendations to be submitted to the Heads of State and Government. The Chairman of AEBF10 will present these recommendations to the ASEM6 Summit, together with Mr Wan Jifei, the Chairman of CCPIT, on September 11th.

The three key messages of AEBF10 are the following:

- Firstly, business needs confidence to work in a stable and predictable regulatory and economic environment, where obstacles to trade in goods and services as well as investment will be removed. The best framework for this is provided by the multilateral trade regime. Business leaders strongly urge all ASEM governments to contribute to saving the WTO Doha negotiations, which are in considerable difficulties.
- Secondly, business asks the ASEM governments to support competitiveness of companies by removing discriminatory rules and treatment and by abiding by the agreed common rules. Fair competition and a stable regulatory environment supported by good governance are necessary for business. Particular attention should be paid to the problems and needs of SMEs. Free trade is the key for boosting growth and prosperity in our societies.
- Thirdly, business draws serious attention to a joint challenge – how to ensure the availability of environmentally sound energy at a reasonable price. They agreed that all energy options should be kept open to ensure energy security and that the latest technology should be exploited to increase energy efficiency.

In addition, each working group produced the following recommendations:

Trade working group

Customs Regulations

- Customs regulations should be simple, effective and transparent. Therefore, countries that have not yet done so should accede to and implement the Kyoto and Istanbul Conventions and introduce electronic customs in view of the benefits they provide for trade and international exchange.
- Customs should introduce the principles and practices of the Arusha Declaration, thus enhancing predictability and effectiveness in the application of customs procedures and equal treatment of customers.

Technical Regulations, Standards and Conformity Assessment (SCA)

- In order to solve some basic problems in removing technical barriers to trade, ASEM should discuss the need for a new international, intergovernmental organisation for the development of international standards and guidelines for Good Regulatory Practice to be used for regulatory purposes at the national level, and especially, for the development and administration of international conformity assessment systems.
- The WTO members should give further consideration to the proposal for a NTB mediation mechanism, currently being discussed in the WTO. The objective should be a voluntary and efficient way of dealing with increasing amounts of NTBs affecting business.

Intellectual Property Rights

- Both in Europe and in Asia, governments should establish and maintain a strong and cost effective patent system and enhance enforcement of patents in order to safeguard fair legal procedures and to ensure that proper licensing principles are followed.
- Governments and businesses should take additional action to more efficiently combat counterfeiting and piracy and to increase public awareness of the damages these activities cause, by creating a concrete action plan, including appropriate education, training and enforcement programmes.

Investment working group

- Business stresses the importance of engaging in a continuous process of discussion between governments and the business community, and the necessity of a concrete follow-up and implementation of the recommendations developed in the Forum e.g. workshops about energy efficiency or PPP (see Hanoi conclusions). The institutional integration of the business community should be reinforced.

- Business is convinced that policy guidelines for investment, developed recently by international institutions such as the OECD or by some ASEM countries, can serve as a useful tool to attract investment. They can advise the development of coherent policy approaches across all the policy areas that have an impact on investment. We encourage AEBF governments to apply the best practices identified hereby.

In this context, business invites the Europe-Asia business community to open an active dialogue on CSR within the framework of the AEBF. A report should be made for the next meeting in 2008.

- Business encourages future EU-Asia bilateral/regional free trade agreements (FTAs) to cover investment rules to ensure non-discriminatory treatment of FDI between the ASEM countries. The business community should be invited to develop joint recommendations for governments.

Financial Services working group

- Liberalisation of financial markets is vital and will enhance economic growth globally as well as for individual countries, both developed and developing. Transparent domestic rules, administrative procedures and reliable information are essential elements to liberalising financial services. Regulatory regimes, even restrictive ones, should be made more transparent.
- A supervisory culture needs enforcement in both EU and Asian countries. Better supervisory convergence between these two regions will also help businesses to operate more transparently and efficiently. Prudential limits should be based on a foreign bank's total capital instead of on its branch's capital, in case the foreign bank's home supervisory authorities have implemented Basel or equivalent standards.
- The change-over to IFRS as a reporting tool in listed companies both in Europe and in Asia is a welcome development. However, it should be borne in mind that the IFRS reporting system is based on the information needs of the investors. Any efforts to introduce the IFRS code as a mandatory regime for unlisted SMEs should be opposed as an undue obligation. An internationally accepted rating system should be installed to facilitate SMEs financing.

Information and Communication Technology working group

- ICT's established potential to contribute to productivity increase, competitiveness, development of new private and public services, sustainable development and equality should be fully utilized. ICT is a significant instrument for all areas of society, business, public administration and citi-

zens. The AEBF recommends to ASEM governments the adoption of ambitious and compatible national ICT policies that are placed high in their political agendas and to commit themselves to enforcing them.

- The policies should be directed to facilitating market access by lightening the regulatory framework, intensifying international co-operation in the reduction of non-tariff barriers, enabling open access, digital interoperability and convergence, and the promotion of international standards.
- Information and network security are concerns that are increasingly having an effect on all aspects of ICT. The AEBF underlines the importance of the data protection and network security issues that need to be tackled not only nationally but at the ASEM level as well.
- Attention should also be paid to promoting, innovating and benchmarking new rapid developments such as digitization of public services, electronic invoicing, banking and customs in partnerships between Asian and European governments and businesses. The application of ICT in SMEs should especially be encouraged.

Infrastructure working group

Energy is fundamental to our civilization, and economic and social development is dependent on reliable, affordable and clean energy.

- More concrete interactions, co-operation programmes and ways of collecting and transferring information on new and better solutions for energy efficiency in all sectors, including transportation, are needed. The role of governments, supported by the private sector, is essential to establish proper incentives to promote energy efficiency.
- All environmentally sound energy options including renewables and nuclear power have to be available in order to ensure energy security and sustainable growth.
- The global climate change combating regime should be formulated in a way that safeguards a level playing field and that avoids distortion of competition at global markets.

Appendix 28

Statement of the 6th Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF), Helsinki

People's Vision, Building Solidarity across Asia and Europe

We, the participants of the Asia Europe People's Forum 6, reaffirm the AEPF Charter and so declare that:

We support the

- promotion of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights as agreed in international human rights and humanitarian law;
- promotion of environmentally, socially and economically sustainable patterns of development; greater economic and social equity and justice including equality between men and women, and
- active participation of people's organisations and networks in the ASEM process.

We demand that the ASEM process recognize and respond to people's needs and rights and become more transparent and accountable to national parliaments.

We state that

- The AEPF's purpose is to engage and advocate for change in Asia and Europe, including in the overall ASEM process and to reflect social issues and people's concerns.
- The alternatives proposed by the AEPF stand in opposition to the current paradigm of globalisation dominated by Transnational Corporations (TNCs) and by governments and international institutions which are increasingly serving corporate interests.
- The alternatives being pursued by the AEPF in co-operation with people's organisations and networks are designed to ensure that a globalised solidarity between people and people's organisations will be at the centre of a new stage in world history.

We respect

- universal human rights;
- the rights of all women, men and children.

We will work for the protection of the environment and will found our actions on democratic international systems and institutions at the service of social justice, equality, peace and the sovereignty of peoples in Europe and Asia.

We affirm that

- The AEPF is an open space for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals and networking for effective actions by groups and movements of civil society that are opposed to neo-liberalism and to domination of the world by corporate power and any form of imperialism.
- The AEPF is an inter-regional process between Europe and Asia – all the meetings that are held as part of this process have an inter-regional dimension. The AEPF is a plural, diverse, non-sectarian and non-governmental space that, in a decentralised fashion, inter-relates organisations and movements engaged in concrete actions and initiatives.
- The AEPF wants to build relationships, dialogue, shared analysis and action between progressive organisations in Asia and Europe. The AEPF brings together and interlinks civil society organisations and movements from all countries in Europe and Asia.
- The AEPF welcomes and participates in the World Social Forum and the Regional and National Social Forum processes associated with it.
- Neither government nor military organisations shall participate in the AEPF.

We, over 450 women and men representing people's organisations from Asian and European countries gathered at the 6th Asia-Europe People's Forum held in Helsinki from September 3rd -6th 2006, came together

- building on the traditions and values of the Asia-Europe People's Forum as a venue for people, their organisations and social movements to exchange ideas, analysis and common concerns about the effects of the current structure of economic development on the lives, livelihoods, rights and security of the women, men and children in both our regions;
- concerned about the increasing militarization of international relations, the weakening of democratic institutions and practices and the attacks on human and social rights. We are concerned that women's and Indigenous People's rights and livelihoods are specifically under threat;
- recalling and re-emphasizing the declarations of the People's Forums held in Bangkok (1996), London (1998), Seoul (2000), Copenhagen (2002) and Hanoi (2004);
- promoting mutual understanding and people's joint actions for peace, equitable and sustainable development, democracy and social justice in Asia and Europe;
- recognising the growing need to interlink our movements, issues and concerns;
- having discussed at the AEPF6, respecting the diversity and complementarity of different values and with the aim of developing concrete responses and recommendations;

State the following

Reflection on 10 Years of ASEM

ASEM has a continuing democratic deficit. ASEM is a key mechanism for countries in Europe and East and South-East Asia to co-operate. Together the ASEM Member States have influence over half the world's GDP. ASEM's programme of work has only had limited possibilities for regular democratic scrutiny by national parliaments in both Asia and Europe, including the European Parliament.

After 10 years we have not seen an ASEM blueprint that promotes development and benefits for all. ASEM has concentrated on promoting co-operation between governments and representatives of business interests, and its agenda has been geared towards trade, investment and political issues. The economic pillar has promoted pro-market policies as opposed to alternative people-centred policies. This has not promoted socially, environmentally and economically sustainable trade, investment and economic and social development. There has been no attention to incorporating and learning from the experiences, ideas and visions of the women and men, workers and farmers in both continents, who have felt the effects, both negative and positive of the current patterns of economic and social development. ASEM at 10 should be at a point of genuine reflection and of commitment to a programme of work that ensures that the benefits of trade and investment are shared in a just and equal way for all.

Recommendations

- On the occasion of its tenth anniversary we call on Asian and European Heads of State and Government to reorient themselves towards a social dimension of ASEM that protects and promotes the economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, as agreed in international human rights and humanitarian law, of all citizens in Asia and Europe, including rights to Decent Work, Essential Public Services and those of Migrant Workers. These must be based on the promotion of environmentally, socially and economically sustainable patterns of development.
- The mechanisms should be established and/or strengthened to enable regular and systematic scrutiny of ASEM by all national parliaments and a systematic dialogue with ministries of national governments. The AEPF should be recognised as an independent Forum having a legitimate role in the ASEM process both at national and regional levels.

We welcome the statement of first ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers Conference held in Potsdam, Germany on 3rd -5th September. We perceive this as a first step in recognizing the social dimension of the ASEM process. The Ministers called for ASEM governments "to respect and support human and social rights particularly those set out in the ILO Decent Work Agenda" with this being "key to sustainable productivity and growth". This is the outcome of consistent efforts by Trade Unions and networks such as the AEPF over the last ten-

years. There is now a need to develop and agree implementation, reporting and monitoring mechanisms for annual reviews on progress.

PEACE AND SECURITY

– Peace building or increasing militarization

In many ASEM countries the escalation of conflicts rooted in social, political and economic disparities and ethnic and religious tensions has led to the curtailment of civil liberties and human rights, further undermining people's efforts to progress towards greater human security, social justice and democracy. This has included the killing of non-violent social activists and journalists. The dependence on fossil fuels, above all the declining resource of oil, is a fundamental motor for many of the world's conflicts above all in Western Asia. Terrorism and the US-led "war on terror" have been used as a pretext for military interventions in many parts of the world. They have also been used to justify restrictions on civil liberties in many Asian and European countries and, in some cases, the cultural rights of entire populations.

We are concerned that genuine peace, poverty eradication initiatives, women's basic human rights and democratic, secular spaces are being threatened by racism and religious intolerance by both states and non-state actors, putting under threat some of the gains of progressive movements achieved over the last decades.

ASEM member governments confirmed and committed their support to more equitable social and economic development at the UN Summit on Social Development held in Copenhagen (1994). Current global challenges demand ASEM governments to work together to reshape international institutions, including the World Bank, IMF and WTO to enable these institutions to fully contribute to these commitments.

The European Union and some Asian countries are home to some of the world's most significant producers and exporters of armaments. Conflicts which threaten and destroy the lives of millions are fuelled by the arms trade, posing a fundamental obstacle to the objectives of sustainable development and upholding human rights. The trade in arms and the means of repression of citizens is a key factor preventing the achievement of human security, as defined by the United Nations Development Programme.

We will work with Asian and European people's organisations to

- continue to strengthen the co-operation between Asian and European peace and economic justice activists to build and sustain our movement within and across our countries;
- work to end the arms race and militarization, including a total ban on weapons of mass destruction;
- condemn the militarization of aid and its use for geo-strategic objectives;

- establish an independent, consultative, international civil society platform on conflict resolution for the ASEM process to strengthen civil society grass-roots networks, engage with institutions such as GPPAC and the AEPF, and for ASEM to recognise and work with this platform
- assert that the “war on terror” is undermining security and human rights;
- demand justice for all victims of weapons of mass destruction including people with disabilities;
- endorse and support the call for justice for the victims and survivors of nuclear weapons, Agent Orange and ‘depleted’ uranium;

We call on ASEM governments to play an active and constructive role in contributing to world peace and security through preventing war, rejecting all kinds of use of force or threats to use force in inter-state relations, through disarmament, the promotion of conflict prevention and the peaceful solutions of conflicts on the basis of international laws and respect for the independence and sovereignty of nations; To progress towards this end we call upon ASEM governments to

- establish clean, secure, sustainable decentralized energy systems which place greater emphasis on renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as internalise social and environmental costs and displace large scale, centralised fossil fuel and nuclear energy sources;
- work together to reform and strengthen the UN. This should include making the IFIs and WTO accountable to the UN process;
- strengthen the UN to enable it to fulfil its indispensable leadership role on global issues;
- stop supporting the US-led global war on terror and to stop supporting the US-Israeli aggression;
- support peaceful and just resolution of conflicts;
- work towards an Asian Energy Security Grid. This would seek to address the energy needs of Asia, being conducive to the promotion of building peace and security;
- develop and agree transparent and binding mechanisms for controlling arms imports and exports;
- EU and Asian governments should respectively adopt and implement European and Asian Codes of Conduct on the arms trade, including on small arms, and support the process of developing a binding worldwide code;
- recognise the right of citizens to refuse to do military service and develop civil and civic service alternatives
- give local communities and civil society a central role in preventing conflict and promoting justice security and equality;
- stop giving aid in support of militarism, occupation and oppression.

Economic Security and Social Rights

Asian and European economies are undergoing disturbing changes that are creating human insecurity, a phenomenon characterised by the 'race to the bottom'. In many Asian and European countries, citizens, including migrants, are denied their fundamental rights to essential services. Transferring of control to the private sector is increasingly being encouraged and supported, generally leading to decreased access to essential services and increased vulnerability for millions of women, men and children across Asia and Europe. Labour restructuring in both regions has transformed workers, including migrant workers, into flexible, substitutable, and disposable commodities. Women and child workers are most vulnerable in this environment. We are deeply concerned that the continuing processes of liberalisation and privatisation, are leading to a restructuring of labour markets with decreasing wages, increasing informal labour and further eroding of states capacity and commitment to providing citizens with services which are part of their rights.

EU and WTO rooted agricultural policies, subsidies and agreements that favour corporate agribusiness are having detrimental effects on nature and on the lives and livelihoods of millions of small-scale agricultural producers across Asia and Europe.

With the Doha round "trapped between the intensive care unit and the crematorium", we remain concerned at the bi-lateral Free Trade agreements that are being pushed aggressively by the EU. The proposed EU-ASEAN trade agreements are promoting and are trying to lock 'the weaker partner' into an irreversible neo-liberal model. These trade agreements entrench existing inequalities and unequal development between and within the Asian member states of ASEM. These agreements give too much power to markets and multinational corporations over that of states and citizens.

At the same time we see daily the "winners and losers" of globalisation. Notwithstanding some progress on poverty reduction in some countries, the distribution of economic gains remains unequal. In many countries women, children, people with disabilities, indigenous people's and other ethnic minorities face growing pressures of economic and social exclusion.

We suggest that the ASEM governments and peoples explore alternative approaches to trade agreements such as the Bolivarian Alternatives for the Americas (ALBA) and the Trade Treaty of the People (TTP). These agreements aim at achieving equitable and sustainable development and are based on the principles of complementarity instead of competition; co-existence with nature against irrational exploitation of resources; defence of social property against privatization and promotion of cultural diversity.

We will work with Asian and European people's organisations to promote the interests and rights of farmers, fishing communities, migrant workers, peo-

ple with disabilities, women, children, indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities and workers; To do this we will

- promote human security, poverty eradication, the right to Water, Food Health, Education for All;
- promote the right to sustainable and decent work;
- promote sustainable agricultural and rural development based on the principles of food sovereignty and promote human security;
- protest against an unjust international economic order which is leading to a loss in national sovereignty, growing social disparities and environmental destruction;
- struggle against unfair trade practices and agreements such as Agreement on Agriculture and Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights which are endangering the lives of millions of peasants, workers and indigenous peoples in both regions;
- develop and promote people-centred approaches to trade and investment, including public/public and public/community partnerships;
- recognise the common and shared interests we have as women, men and children migrants, refugees and citizens as well as the common threat posed to us particularly in the face of the 'war on terror'.

We call on ASEM governments to

- pursue alternative regional strategies that promote a development model such as ALBA (Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas) which aims at 'autonomous regionalisation' aimed at equitable and sustainable development which is environmentally conscious;
- promote trade policies and practices aiming firstly at poverty alleviation and protecting social and economic rights of workers and peasants/farmers, especially in less developed countries;
- adopt and recognise the principle of food sovereignty. Food sovereignty is intrinsically linked to the political, economic and cultural sovereignty of our peoples;
- respect the right to peacefully struggle for food sovereignty. We call upon governments to stop related criminalisation and repression;
- stop the privatisation of water, health and other essential services. ASEM governments should look at alternative forms of organising and managing utilities, namely public-public partnerships. Democratic participation and public consultation are key to improving essential service delivery;
- support the cancellation of illegitimate debts of developing countries;
- promote a Currency Transaction Tax, stronger capital market regulation, the abolishment of tax havens and tax incentives offered to multinational corporations;
- recognise the fundamental rights at the centre of all their policies and practices on migration, employment and development. Human, economic, so-

cial, political and cultural rights are universal and inalienable and there can no derogation of these rights in the name of the 'war on terror';

- ratify and implement all the ILO Core Labour Standard Conventions and establish a permanent tri-partite body that enables regular consultation between governments, employers and Trade Unions;
- realise the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Democracy and Human Rights

We believe that respect for human rights and self-determination and the development and strengthening of open and participatory democracies form the basis for sustainable economic and social development both nationally and internationally.

Democracy has many components and varies from society to society. However, there are some key principles as expressed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which we feel are essential to the promotion of a social and political fabric which can be the foundation for sustainable economic and social development.

Democratic rights can be seen in a comprehensive way in all aspects of societies. The AEPF6 has been an opportunity to exchange experiences and visions of people-centred democracy.

Trafficking in persons, most of them who are women and children, is a human rights violation, whose issues are complex, multi-dimensional and embedded in specific contexts. A one-size-fits-all national security-based and migration management approach obscures and ignores (a) the structural factors of poverty, labour migration and collapse of livelihoods and care systems linked to economic globalization as well as (b) the socio-cultural factor of discrimination, gender inequalities and patriarchal sexual practices and mores as these interact with or react to market-led reforms.

We will work with Asian and European peoples' organisations to

- build strong active citizen's organisations based on a wide degree of public participation and facilitate exchanges between them including at the grass-roots level;
- deepen the process of comprehensive democratization in active citizens' organisations to be genuinely plural and inclusive;
- recognise the particular barriers preventing people with disabilities, the most vulnerable of whom are women, in exercising their rights and accordingly ensure the provision of the necessary accessibility and support for them to participate in people's movements;
- closely collaborate with the media to promote the goals agreed in this statement.

We call on ASEM governments to

- commit themselves to building participatory democratic societies based on the widest degree of people's participation;
- use the opportunity of their political dialogue to promote and respect human rights, participatory democracy and promote gender equality;
- protect and promote biological diversity;
- ensure respect for the freedom of association, expression and assembly by ratifying and respecting ILO Conventions 87 and 88 on Freedom of Association and Rights to Collective Bargaining;
- develop a dialogue between Asia and European governments on the role of participatory local government in promoting sustainable development and democratic services in practice, including specific attention to the challenges of urban governance;
- develop mechanisms and institutions in both regions which can both deliver basic democratic rights and strengthen people's participation in decisions that affect their lives so contributing to deeper and more participatory democracy;
- fully integrate a comprehensive human rights framework and approach in tackling national intra-regional and inter-regional trafficking issues by addressing the root causes of trafficking from the perspective of prevention and protection, inequality, multiple discrimination and the adverse effects of neo-liberal globalization;
- move beyond its state-centred and limited women's rights language of victim rescue, protection and repatriation into a truly women-empowering and migrant rights-based policy and set of practices in combating trafficking. These should include measures that would allow victims of trafficking to remain in the European country of destination temporarily or permanently without the precondition of assisting in the criminal prosecution of their traffickers;
- enhance the implementation of the existing legal and policy instruments, in particular the ASEM Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children;
- guarantee the collective rights and autonomy of indigenous forest communities and to allow them to decide upon the access to and use of the land and forest where communities live; ensure respect for and protection of indigenous peoples' rights and cultures. Respect the primary rights of forest communities to use forest land according to their traditional user rights and governance systems. To this end we urge all ASEM member states to ratify ILO Convention 169 "Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries" and to vote for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

- establish mechanisms for the redress of, and reparation for, victims and survivors of human rights violations;
- translate their commitments to Disabled People's Rights by ratifying the UN Convention "On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" and progress to passing necessary national legislation and providing related resources
- Ensure all children, parents and communities are fully aware of children's rights as expressed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child

On Burma/Myanmar

We continue to be appalled at the human rights situation and the lack of progress on democratization and national reconciliation in Burma/Myanmar.

We call on ASEM governments to

- take the opportunity of the presence of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) delegation at ASEM6 and to demand of them to immediately release all political prisoners and to begin a political dialogue with the National League for Democracy (NLD) and leaders of ethnic nationalities as called for by the United Nations General Assembly since 1994;
- Bring the case of Burma/Myanmar to the United Nations Security Council.

We call for a new, just and equal Asia-European partnership, one based on an equitable social dimension to all aspects of the ASEM process.

We call on ASEM to establish appropriate consultation and implementation mechanisms which can further enable people and People's Organisations, including Trade Unions, to contribute to the official ASEM process.

We call upon all people's organisations in Asia and Europe to strengthen their linkages and co-operation, and join us in this common struggle for a better ASEM, for human security in Asia and Europe, a people-centred regionalism for peace, equitable and sustainable development, democracy, equality of peoples and between women and men and social progress in both our regions and the world over.

Helsinki September 6th 2006

Appendix 29

Trade Union Statement on the Agenda for the 6th Summit of the Asia-Europe Meeting:

"10 years of ASEM: time to deliver!"

Trade Union Recommendations to the VI ASEM Summit:

With regard to the ASEM structure:

- Adopt a formal consultative status for trade unions comparable with the arrangements for the Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF)
- Establish a permanent and constructive dialogue on social and employment issues with the main purpose of setting up and promoting a pro-active decent work-based social agenda responsive to the changes affecting both regions
- Incorporate a social perspective into ASEM economic, and trade and investment dialogues, including a formal mechanism to promote and monitor implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises in the Investment Promotion Action Plan (IPAP)

With regard to Employment and Labour related issues:

- Establish an ASEM cooperation framework to exchange information on decent work national plans aiming at achieving the interrelated objectives of full employment, higher job quality and increased labour productivity
- Ensure that the IPAP focuses on those investments that effectively contribute to the creation of decent work
- Develop guidelines to promote an enabling framework to enhance workers' productivity and capacity to move from informal to formal and decent work
- Design and implement a work programme whose purpose would be to ensure the full integration of young people into the labour market
- Involve trade unions in the ASEM dialogue on labour flexibility and social protection

With regard to labour standards:

- Promote the ratification and full application of ILO fundamental workers' rights Conventions with the active participation of social partners.
- Establish a formal mechanism to promote and monitor the observance of internationally recognised social principles by multinational enterprises
- Put on the ASEM agenda a dialogue on education, child labour and children's welfare and stimulate the exchange of information on relevant social policies such as access to health, education, housing and social protection, with due attention to international labour conventions and UN conventions in these areas

- Include the issue of migration on the agenda of ASEM, including an exchange of information on social policies for migrant workers and their families
- Build all possible political and economic pressure to force the government of Burma to respect fundamental human rights including freedom of association and the elimination of forced labour.

ASEM provides a unique opportunity for world leaders to promote an inter-regional dialogue between Asia and Europe. However after 10 years of dialogue covering a wide range of issues, trade unions take the view that the ASEM process still faces many acute challenges. While it has contributed to facilitate understanding between the two regions, it has hardly succeeded in addressing the concerns of peoples from Europe and Asia. It is now time for ASEM to deliver!

In this statement we intend to take stock of the strengths and weaknesses of ten years of the Asia Europe Meeting and make suggestions so as to add value to the process and enhance its relevance on the global scene.

Late recognition of the need for an ASEM social dimension

Trade unions welcome the organisation of the first labour and employment ministers conference held under the auspices of ASEM. Under the title "*More and Better Jobs – Working Jointly to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Globalisation*", the conference to be held in Postdam, Germany on September 3, must be a meaningful opportunity for ministers to exchange views on topics which are of crucial importance for workers and their families in both regions.

Since the creation of ASEM in 1996, trade unions have been calling for social and employment issues to be given the attention they deserve. We are now delighted that after 10 years of lobbying, a first meeting of social and employment ministers is taking place. We hope that it will lead to a permanent and constructive dialogue on these issues at both the ministerial and working levels.

Perhaps more than any other continent, Asia has experienced how globalisation works selectively: beneficial for some countries and for some people within these countries, but detrimental for others. While a few Asian countries have been able to grasp some of the opportunities offered by a globalised economy and have achieved substantial levels of economic growth, for more than 1 billion people in the region, there has been no reward at all. In addition, for none of ASEM's developing countries has globalisation significantly delivered in term of social coherence, decent work, good governance or respect for human rights. In several of the countries that are so-called "winners", workers have seen their working conditions deteriorating and environmental degradation advancing at an unsustainable pace. Both European and Asian countries have built up enough expertise to know that market liberalisation is an instrument of sustained development only where it is accompanied by a substantial social agenda promoting

labour standards and providing solutions during the adjustment period for the “losers” and the most vulnerable.

It is now time for ASEM to develop a meaningful social agenda. An ASEM social agenda can make a difference by assisting in anticipating unfavorable effects and identifying ways to neutralise them. It should help ASEM members to adopt adequate regulatory frameworks mitigating the socially unacceptable effects of market liberalisation measures before they occur. Reactive social programmes established once liberalisation has been implemented tend to yield feeble results. This requires adapting ASEM’s organisational structure so as to incorporate a social perspective into its economic, trade and investment dialogues.

The ASEM Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP) and its Investment Promotion Action Plan (IPAP) must aim at developing a model of globalisation that works for the people, rather than merely seeking to increase trade and investment through business-driven regulatory reforms. Although the financing of social programmes under the ASEM Trust Fund 2 (ATF-2) is welcome, trade unions should have been much more involved in both the design and implementation of these programmes. In addition a commitment by the applicant government to observe workers’ fundamental rights should be a condition for receiving funds from the ATF. A higher priority should be given to improving working conditions, implementing ratified ILO Conventions and promoting tripartism at the national level. Likewise the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) should also finance programmes to promote sound industrial relations practices. In any case, the marginal involvement of the ILO in the implementation of these social programmes is a shortcoming which needs to be addressed.

Although it is public authorities’ responsibility to enforce labour-market regulation in a sustainable way and to protect society against the extremes of the market, this cannot be done from the “top down”. It needs vibrant civil society, fundamental civil and political liberties plus strong and effective unions operating on the basis of ILO standards on freedom of association and collective bargaining, including the right to strike.

ASEM consultative status for trade unions still missing

While trade unions and civil society organisations have started to influence ASEM’s business-driven agenda, the process remains nevertheless unbalanced. Since the London Summit eight years ago, unions from Europe and Asia have urged ASEM members to endorse a trade union consultative mechanism that would counterbalance the Asia- Europe Business Forum (AEBF). As of this date ASEM has failed to achieve legitimacy with working people, notwithstanding the fact that workers have contributed the most to the economic growth of both regions and have been the most affected by adverse changes.

Social dialogue, be it at national or international level, in bipartite or tripartite form has the potential to resolve important economic and social issues, encourage good governance, advance social and industrial peace and stability and boost economic progress. It is both a means and an end in the quest for economic success combined with social progress.

The very nature of ASEM, which is by definition a non-institutionalised dialogue should overcome any reluctance of ASEM leaders to create a trade union consultative mechanism. ASEM's main objective is precisely to share information and exchange viewpoints. Leaders should make full use of this opportunity and engage with trade unions to enable the views of millions of workers to be part of this high level informal dialogue.

It is therefore a matter of urgency for ASEM Leaders to adopt practical measures so as to give trade unions a formal consultative status comparable with the arrangements made available to the Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF). Just as the AEBF enjoys the privilege of a dialogue with all ASEM Leaders, so should their trade union counterparts be granted a similar right. Furthermore, representation of trade unions in all ASEM meetings should be made possible and should be promoted.

Mainstreaming the ILO decent work agenda in the ASEM framework to combine competitiveness and social justice

At the UN General Assembly of September 2005 governments declared they would: "... strongly support fair globalisation and resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, a central objective of our relevant national and international policies as well as our national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, as part of our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals."

The concept of decent work is not a "one-size-fits-all" model. It allows every country to fix its own priorities on the basis of inclusive discussions involving the social partners and to put together, from a range of policy options, a balanced and coherent policy approach enabling nations to best combine competitiveness with social justice.

Achieving the objective of decent work requires an integrated approach based on four pillars which mutually reinforce each other, namely full and productive employment, respect for workers' rights, access to universal social protection and facilitation of social dialogue as a way to promote consensus building and democratic involvement among the main stakeholders in the world of work.

The ILO decent work agenda provides a framework for pro-poor, inclusive and sustainable development. By focusing on the creation of productive jobs in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity, this agenda opens the way for a balanced and sustainable response to globalisation. ASEM Leaders should recognise that decent work deficits will further widen income gaps, hinder

consumption, discourage private investment and undermine universal values. At the national level they should implement decent work action plans as some members already have. At the ASEM level, a cooperation framework should be established for the promotion of decent work among members with full participation of the social partners. ASEM should serve as a mechanism for information sharing on country specific experiences to attain common decent work goals.

Achieving full and productive employment:

The United Nations Economic and Social Council adopted a Ministerial Declaration in July 2006 whose first article states: "we are convinced of the urgent need to create an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all."

Most ASEM countries would agree that the economic growth of the last decades has failed to meet expectations on job creation. Today an estimated 500 millions Asians are either unemployed or underemployed, and Asian labour markets will have to deal with 245 million newcomers by 2015. In Europe, unemployment remains a structural problem which poses an extra burden on EU welfare systems already contending with the financing of an ageing population. An extremely preoccupying feature is the high level of unemployment among young people of both regions in a context where the majority of jobs available to youth are generally low paid and insecure with few benefits or prospects for advancement.

Trade unions believe ASEM can play a crucial role by making globalisation deliver for the peoples of Asia and Europe. Full and productive employment should be put on the top of ASEM economic, industry and finance Ministers' agenda. Indeed, achieving sustained employment growth requires an enabling macroeconomic framework responsive to labour market realities. Policy priorities need to be shifted from market oriented structural reforms to employment centered policies. In addition, comprehensive employment strategies incorporating demand and supply side measures are required in both regions. In today's world full employment rests on high quality labour, and investment in human capital is therefore crucial. We welcome ASEM initiatives on the application of ICT in human resource development, on vocational training and on life long learning that took place in 2005 and 2006. Trade unions emphasise, however, that active labour market policies should not focus simply on workers with highly-valued skills but should give special attention to redressing the impact of organisational and structural changes on workers in general. An ASEM cooperation framework should be established to assist in the formulation of national plans of action aiming at achieving the interrelated objectives of full employment, higher job quality and increased productivity at work backed by supportive economic, industrial and fiscal policies.

Recent statistics tend to show that a substantive part of the jobs created have been in informal, unrecognised and unprotected work. In both regions, there is a growing pattern of informal, casual and ultra-flexible employment. Workers in an informal employment status generally occupy low productivity jobs and are excluded from social security protection. They tend to be unable to enjoy legal rights as other workers can. In addition, there are serious gender concerns associated with atypical workers. ASEM should develop guidelines to promote a conducive legal and policy framework to upgrade jobs and enhance the capacity of workers to move from informal to formal and decent work, in cooperation with the ILO and the social partners.

ASEM governments are primarily responsible for providing adequate training and retraining programmes for all, including women, the unemployed, those seeking to enter or re-enter the labour markets and people with special needs. ASEM should also encourage its members to design and implement a work programme whose purpose would be to ensure the full integration of young people into the labour market. However to achieve these objectives, full participation of the social partners is indispensable. In particular, business enterprises should be strongly encouraged to invest more in education and training programmes. ASEM countries should deepen their cooperation on effective labour market and human resources development policies based on strong industrial relations.

Ensuring respect for fundamental workers' rights

All ASEM governments, as well as employers and trade unions, have a clear obligation to respect, promote and realise fundamental workers' rights – namely freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the effective abolition of child labour and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, as enshrined in the ILO Declaration concerning Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998). However these Conventions still remain un-ratified by several ASEM countries (see Table 1). An ASEM initiative should be taken at the ASEM and national levels to promote ratification and full application of fundamental workers' rights, in cooperation with the ILO and with the active participation of social partners.

Table 1:

Ratifications of the ILO Fundamental Conventions by ASEM Governments
(As of 15 July 2006)

(showing only those governments that have not ratified all 8 core conventions)

	Forced Labour		Freedom of Association		Discrimination		Child Labour	
	C 29	C 105	C 87	C 98	C 100	C 111	C 138	C 182
Brunei Darussalam*								
Burma	R		R					
Cambodia	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
People's Republic of China					R	R	R	R
Czech Republic	R	R	R	R	R	R		R
Estonia	R	R	R	R	R	R		R
Indonesia	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Japan	R		R	R	R		R	R
Republic of Korea					R	R	R	R
Lao People's Democratic Republic	R						R	R
Malaysia	R	D		R	R		R	R
Philippines	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Singapore	R	D		R	R		R	R
Thailand	R	R			R		R	R
Vietnam					R	R	R	R

R – ratified; D – denounced.

* Brunei Darussalam is not an ILO member state.

Nevertheless, even when governments have ratified the ILO Conventions, fundamental workers' rights may still be violated in a race to increase trade and investment. In today's economy, those developing countries pursuing a model of export-led growth that violates workers' rights have increased competitive pressures on markets worldwide and undermined labour standards in many other developing countries. Trade unions are deeply concerned about the export orien-

tation of growth which is based upon the suppression of workers' core rights, all in order to obtain labour-cost advantage.

ASEM needs to have a clear vision of promoting fundamental workers' rights among its members, including in trade and investment related issues. The following measures should therefore be taken:

- a)** The Investment Promotion Action Plan (IPAP) of ASEM needs to be rewritten so as to incorporate broader social concerns, including fundamental workers' rights and employment objectives, with reference to the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. A formal mechanism needs to be established within ASEM to promote and monitor the observance of social principles by multinational enterprises, through the effective use of the National Contact Points under the OECD Guidelines. This would complement and reinforce the increasingly common practice of negotiating Global Framework Agreements between Global Union Federations (GUFs) and major multinational enterprises, many from ASEM countries;
- b)** A strong social dimension, including fundamental workers' rights, and rules for their effective implementation should be incorporated in all bilateral and sub-regional trade agreements between ASEM partners.

Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining are the basis of decent work and only their full application can provide an effective means to ensure that increased trade and investment do lead to improved living standards. ASEM governments should cooperate in creating an atmosphere whereby employers in all economic activities, including those in Export Processing Zones, fully recognise trade unions and respect the right to collective bargaining, in order to ensure that profits of industries and enterprises are reflected properly in wages and working conditions, and to arrest and reverse the "social" race-to-the-bottom. ASEM should draw up a new work programme jointly with the Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF) and ASEM trade unions to promote sound industrial relations in ASEM countries.

All ASEM governments must commit themselves to eliminate any form of discrimination in the workplace, with special attention to women. Women are indeed playing more important economic and social roles than ever. Therefore, ASEM should give greater attention to promoting their living and working conditions. Their right to equal opportunities and treatment needs to be ensured by better legal protection and effective implementation of the principles contained in the Beijing Platform of Action, the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and ILO Conventions applying to women. ASEM Leaders must promote a dialogue on gender issues in the ASEM process with the full involvement of trade unions and instruct their governments

to develop adequate measures to promote the proper implementation of non-discriminatory policies in individual ASEM countries.

Child labour is a major impediment to economic development, with enormous social and economic costs. It is only when the whole society takes steps to get children out of work and into school that sustainable and equitable economies can be built. Millions of children are still being exploited at work and denied the right to education in ASEM countries, particularly in developing ones. ASEM needs to adopt comprehensive, specific measures to tackle child labour in cooperation with ASEM trade unions, and with the ILO's International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

Facilitating adaptability through adequate social protection:

Making globalisation a success for all requires social policy to work in tandem with economic policy. Governments must ensure that all workers including the most vulnerable, such as rural and migrant workers, or informal and unprotected workers, are covered by social protection schemes. In this globalised world social protection should not be kept as a residual category to cater to social causalities. Instead, it should be integrated as a central component of development policies with more ambitious objectives such as the promotion of equity and economic growth. In this regard we support the Chairman's Statement of the 7th ASEM Finance Ministers Meeting which highlights that adequate protection of vulnerable groups does not only have a social and humanitarian value, it also have the potential to enhance incentives to work and support productivity growth.

Likewise trade unions share the views of the ASEM Finance Ministers Meeting which agreed that an adequate system of social protection with a focus on empowering disadvantaged and vulnerable groups is a key element to tackle the challenges posed by globalisation. There is indeed an urgent need to expand social security protection to all, including the more vulnerable such as workers in the informal economy and atypical workers. We share the opinion that dialogue and exchange of best practices regarding labour flexibility and social protection systems should be pursued among ASEM countries. Unions are not opposed to flexibility when it is combined with workers' needs for income security and represents a real opportunity for workers to better combine their private and working lives.

However trade unions strongly regret that the Ministers failed to recognise that this dialogue can only be successful if social partners are involved. It is highly unlikely that governments alone can successfully design and implement legal and policy frameworks reconciling companies' need for flexibility with workers' need for security without the deep involvement of social partners. Workers' organisations have not only developed expertise which would extremely useful, they are also the ones to be directly affected by such reform. Beyond the fact that it would be against ILO recommendations not to include them in the decision

making process, it would be counter-productive since workers are more likely to accept a reform which they helped shaping.

Protecting and Promoting Rights of Migrant Workers

In the era of globalisation, the number of people crossing borders to work, live or unite with their families abroad has reached an unprecedented level. Labour migration has brought about new risks and opportunities for both receiving and sending countries, requiring an appropriate policy framework to respond adequately to the situation.

At the international level, efforts should be directed to developing a rights-based approach for managing migration. We regret that the 4th ASEM Directors General Meeting on management of migratory flows between Europe and Asia, held in Bali in December 2005, did not address the issue of migrant workers' rights. Trade unions take the view that the ASEM discussions on migration should go beyond security concerns and be part of the dialogues covering employment and labour issues. ASEM should serve as a platform to facilitate the exchange of information between receiving and sending countries and to elaborate concrete cooperation mechanisms so as to enhance the positive effects of migration and mitigate the negative ones. Participation of migrant workers' organisations in this process is indispensable.

Although ASEM Ministers in charge of managing migratory flows originally agreed to promote the rights of migrant workers, few ASEM governments have ratified either the UN International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families or the relevant ILO Conventions Nos. 97 and 143. ASEM Leaders must recommend that the promotion of migrants' rights be included in its work programme and instruct their governments to develop necessary measures to protect migrant workers and their families from any form of discrimination, exploitation and maltreatment, including human trafficking on the basis of the principles enshrined in these Conventions.

Demanding respect for fundamental human rights in all ASEM countries

The international trade union movement appreciates the efforts of ASEM to promote a dialogue on human rights. We welcome the four recommendations made by the 7th and last informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights held in Budapest in February 2006, particularly the one concerning an increased role for ASEM in minority rights protection, as well as that concerning the possible adoption of a regional instrument relating to the protection of human rights in general, and minority rights in particular. We call on ASEM members to pursue and deepen dialogue and cooperation on human rights issues within the ASEM framework.

Trade unions condemn the decision taken by the 5th ASEM Summit to admit Burma (Myanmar) as a member of ASEM despite the massive and continued human rights violations taking place in that country. It is worth recalling that the use of widespread forced labour was the subject of an International Labour Conference Resolution in 1999 under article 33 of the ILO Constitution, and that in 1997 the EU withdrew its Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) benefits to Burma for the same reason. The last Session of the ILO Conference, in June 2006, took further steps in this direction, including a decision in principle to refer Burma to the International Court of Justice next November.

In July 2003, ASEM Foreign Ministers had called on the government of Burma to resume its efforts toward national reconciliation and democracy and to ensure Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other NLD members have freedom to undertake political activities. In May 2005, the Ministers renewed their expectations for lifting of all political restrictions and development of the democratisation process at the earliest possible time. They called on the Government of Burma to grant access to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General.

Despite these calls from the international community, the junta has shown no real willingness to put an end to its practices. Neither the 2003 Road Map for a transition to democracy nor the so-called National Convention to discuss and promulgate principles for a new constitution have made any genuine real progress, casting a dark shadow over the regime's real intentions. The recent visit of UN Undersecretary General Ibrahim Gambari to Burma may have been seen as a tiny glimmer of hope for the oppressed people of Burma. But Aung San Suu Kyi remains under house arrest, while hundreds of political prisoners remain in jail. And forced labour, far from receding, is in fact on the increase, particularly in the context of major infrastructure projects, such as new gas extraction ventures developed in partnership with several of Burma's neighbouring countries.

ASEM leaders must build all possible political and economic pressure to force the government of Burma to respect fundamental human rights including freedom of association and the elimination of forced labour. ASEM countries, in particular the three permanent members and the current four non permanent members of the UN Security Council, should step up their efforts to place Burma on the agenda of the UN Security Council and for the UN Security Council to adopt a binding resolution on Burma, in order to achieve a peaceful outcome to the political stalemate in the country.

Conclusion: Tackling global challenges

In 2005 in Kyoto ASEM Foreign Ministers decided to advance dialogue and concrete cooperation under the "Asia-Europe Partnership to Tackle Global Challenges," recognising the importance of focusing ASEM activities on three areas, namely strengthening multilateralism, promoting partnership for human-centred

and sustainable development and enhancing dialogue among culture and civilizations. Trade unions are of the view that these broad themes are fully relevant to the ASEM cooperation framework. Indeed, ASEM must redouble its efforts to strengthen multilateralism in all its forms, something that is particularly important in view of the recent suspension of negotiations in the Doha Development Round of the WTO. We welcome the desire to move toward more substantive cooperation in all the above areas, especially on environmental issues. However we insist that human-centred and sustainable development requires also a strong social component, which we believe could be achieved by taking up the suggestions made in this Statement.

Appendix 30

Press article by the Coordinators' Head of State and Government

(September 2006)

Seeking joint responses to global challenges - Asia and Europe look to the future on ASEM's tenth anniversary

On 10 and 11 September leaders from 10 ASEAN countries, China, Japan, Korea, 25 EU Member States, and the President of the European Commission will meet at the sixth Summit of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Helsinki. The gathering will be a cause for celebration and reflection, as ten years have passed since the inaugural Summit in Bangkok took place. The Meeting's tenth anniversary provides an excellent occasion to see how far ASEM has lived up to the expectations of its partners and look to the future to consider where the Asia-Europe partnership should be heading after its first ten years.

Asia-Europe relations have achieved significant progress during the past decade. Economic relations have strengthened. Trade between the two regions now accounts for more than 43% of total world trade in goods, and ASEM partners together account for about 52% of the world's GDP. The scope of political dialogue has been widened and now covers human rights and the rule of law as well as global threats and broad security issues such as factors conducive to the spread of terrorism and conflict prevention. Moreover, enhanced interaction in the field of cultural dialogue and cooperation has significantly improved mutual awareness and understanding between Asia and Europe.

ASEM has served to build consensus among its membership, thereby facilitating progress in other multilateral fora. ASEM has also been instrumental in developing shared values and interests between the two regions. This has in turn helped to promote regional cooperation and thus has provided momentum for the move towards future community-building in East Asia. By acting together, ASEM partners have the critical mass to help bring about global change.

At the trans-regional level, ASEM interlinks Europe's and Asia's business communities, parliaments, NGOs and other representatives of civil society. The Asia-Europe Foundation, the only institution of ASEM, has played a significant role in people-to-people contacts. The Foundation has successfully developed networking as well as cultural and educational exchanges, and has provided an interface between ASEM governments and civil society in the two regions.

Tangible results of ASEM include numerous collaborative projects, programmes, seminars and initiatives sponsored by groups of partner countries from the two regions. Cooperation has expanded beyond the initial emphasis on the economy to include new fields such as health, environment and energy,

employment and labour, and science and technology including Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

To continue to exploit its full potential, ASEM must carry on providing added-value. It has three tools with which to achieve this:

First, ASEM should pay particular attention to certain priority areas, to be followed up through joint initiatives and programmes. These areas include strengthening multilateralism to address security threats; promoting human-centred and sustainable development including cooperation on environment and energy security; managing globalisation; and enhancing dialogue among cultures and civilisations.

Second, ASEM should continue to complement ongoing work in other fora in line with the international agenda. For example, ASEM's contribution to the fight against international terrorism should tie in with ongoing counter-terrorism efforts in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the UN framework. ASEM's "Dialogue among Cultures and Civilisations" programme (which includes Interfaith Dialogue) is consistent with activities conducted in other international cooperation structures.

Third, ASEM should continue to strive for greater transparency and a broader sense of ownership. People-to-people contacts as well as educational and intellectual exchanges are of paramount importance, and also increase ASEM's visibility. Further efforts are needed to raise the awareness of the general public and attract media attention.

The ASEM6 Summit in Helsinki will review the first 10 years of the Asia-Europe dialogue and aim to set the direction for the second decade and beyond. Concrete outcomes of the Summit will include the adoption of a Declaration on the Future of ASEM outlining guiding principles for future cooperation, and a Declaration on Climate Change highlighting ASEM's firm commitment to building the international consensus that is needed. Moreover, parallel events will bring together representatives of the business community, parliaments and civil society.

The political decision on further ASEM enlargement is an important milestone in the evolution of the process. ASEM partners believe that enlargement could provide greater dynamism and enrich the diversity of the process as well as help enhance and expand Asia-Europe dialogue and cooperation.

A lot has already been accomplished during ASEM's first decade, but much more still needs to be done to make the Asia-Europe partnership count when responding to global challenges. Asia and Europe stand firmly united in support of multilateralism, and ASEM offers both regions a framework in which they can join forces in tackling pressing issues and contribute towards global peace, security and prosperity. Together, Asia and Europe can form a partnership that is much bigger than the sum of its parts - the ASEM6 summit in Helsinki will show the way.

HE Mr. Matti Vanhanen, Prime Minister of Finland and President of the Council of the European Union

HE Mr. José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

HE Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia

HE Mr. Roh Moo-hyun, President of the Republic of Korea*

* The article is written by the leaders of the four ASEM coordinators, namely the country holding the rotating EU Presidency, currently Finland, the European Commission, Indonesia representing ASEAN countries and Republic of Korea representing the Northeast Asian countries.

Appendix 31

Finland's Concept Paper on the priorities of ASEM6

(24 March 2006)

1. Introduction

The next ASEM Summit will be hosted by Finland during the Finnish EU Presidency in Helsinki. For the 6th time, 38 Heads of State and Government and the President of the European Commission will have the opportunity to meet each other, to discuss various issues of current global interest in a free and open manner fostering confidence building and constructive dialogue, and to take note of the progress made in many fields of ASEM cooperation.

The Helsinki Summit, taking place on the 10th and 11th of September, will mark the 10th anniversary of the ASEM cooperation process. The Summit will provide the Leaders with a forum to take stock of the experiences of the first ten years of ASEM and to discuss the future directions of the ASEM process in order to further develop and consolidate the Asia-Europe dialogue, cooperation and the structures of mutual understanding. This special occasion is also a window of opportunity to promote positive outreach towards the civil society, the media, and the rest of the world.

The first ASEM decade has confirmed the belief in the foundation that our cooperation is based on - in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world both Asia and Europe need each other. However, we should never let the past successes and present achievements blind us of the need to continuously strive for more.

2. The Future of ASEM

At the ASEM5 in Hanoi in 2004 the Leaders tasked Foreign Ministers and Senior Officials to study and submit their recommendations on the continued improvement of ASEM institutional mechanisms. Key issues identified by the Foreign Ministers in Kyoto in 2005 were: 1) areas of substantive cooperation; 2) improvement of ASEM institutional mechanisms; 3) future membership/enlargement.

The Senior Officials are now expected to continue the discussion on the Future of ASEM according to the premises outlined by the Leaders in Hanoi and the Foreign Ministers in Kyoto and to submit their policy recommendations to the Leaders at the ASEM6 in Helsinki.

To provide input for the work of the Senior Officials, Finland and Japan, the host countries of the next Summit and the previous Foreign Ministers Meeting, have commissioned two think-tanks to prepare an independent critical review, *10 Years of ASEM - Achievements and Possibilities*. The two studies and the Joint

Conclusions have now been completed and they will be presented to the SOM in Vienna in March 2006.

The Senior Officials will also benefit in their task from the Korean study analysing comprehensively the ASEM initiatives during the first ten years of ASEM.

The decision taken at the Kyoto Foreign Ministers Meeting to establish an ASEM virtual secretariat is of vital importance in order to enhance coordination and more regular communication and information sharing among the ASEM partners.

On the issue of future membership/enlargement, the Leaders agreed at the Hanoi Summit in 2004 to consider the issue taking into account the continued EU enlargement and important role of other candidates. At the Kyoto FMM7 in 2005 the Foreign Ministers concluded that ASEM partners should seek to achieve a common understanding on the future membership in light of the open and evolutionary nature of the ASEM process. They also agreed that the AECF 2000 and the Chairman's Statement of ASEM5 in Hanoi will continue to be the basis of the discussion.

The Senior Officials are to continue the discussion on future membership based on the Ministers' guidance and make recommendations in order to allow the Heads of State and Government to take a decision on the enlargement issue at ASEM6. The discussion commenced already at the SOM in London in November 2005 and should be continued at the SOM in Vienna in March 2006.

3. Areas of Substantive Cooperation

At the Hanoi Summit in 2004 the Leaders underlined the need for ASEM to provide a foundation and framework for fostering the Asia-Europe comprehensive partnership in the 21st century. To this end, the Leaders agreed to further revitalise and substantiate the ASEM process, moving towards enhanced cooperation with specific goals and result-oriented programmes/projects.

In line with the tasks assigned by the Leaders at ASEM5, the Foreign Ministers concluded at FMM7 in Kyoto that a small number of areas should be the subject of substantive cooperation. It was recommended that the Leaders discuss at ASEM6 in Helsinki the progress made on substantive cooperation in the following areas: I) strengthening multilateralism and addressing security threats; II) sustainable development (including environment and energy security); and III) dialogue among cultures and civilisations.

For the discussion on economic cooperation it was suggested by the High Level Meeting within the Framework of the Economic Ministers Meeting in Rotterdam in September -05 that the Leaders would address questions related to IV) globalisation and competitiveness at the ASEM6 Summit.

In addition to the areas defined in Kyoto and at the Rotterdam High Level Meeting, a number of other ministerial meetings have already provided and will provide input for the Summit including the Culture Ministers Meeting in Paris,

the Finance Ministers Meeting in Tianjin and Vienna and the Ministers of Labour Meeting in Germany.

While the ASEM process is in general divided functionally into three pillars, i.e. political, economic, and cultural pillar, and the division is perceived as an useful method considering the extensive array of issues in the cooperation process, the discussion at the Summit is based on a broad cross-pillar approach. The Heads of State and Government should have the possibility to express their views on all the issues discussed from whatever perspective they feel appropriate.

Under the areas of substantive cooperation outlined by the Foreign Ministers in Kyoto and by the High Level Meeting in Rotterdam, the subjects to be discussed by the Leaders at ASEM6 might include the following issues, some of which were discussed in London (November -05) and will require further elaboration by the Senior Officials in their meeting in Vienna (March -06):

I. Strengthening multilateralism and addressing security threats

Enhancing the global comprehensive security agenda and addressing security threats have been central elements of the ASEM political pillar cooperation. Recent regional developments are traditionally discussed over lunch/dinner at the Summits. In addition, acknowledging that many of today's threats recognize no national boundaries, are interlinked and require common solutions, the Heads of State and Government will address a number of policy issues in a plenary session based on successful past experiences and the evolutionary nature of the cooperation process.

The political dialogue has typically concentrated on the general exchange of views between the ASEM partners. While the value of the dialogue itself is highly appreciated, the process has sometimes been criticized for the lack of impetus on the practical level. Still, a number of concrete actions have already proven that efforts to reach tangible results and the political dialogue are mutually reinforcing components of the cooperation process.

The Senior Officials should discuss ways to further strengthen the political pillar cooperation in their meetings before the Helsinki Summit. Their preparatory work should build on the results from the Hanoi Summit and the Kyoto FMM, as well as on the deliverables from various relevant initiatives (e.g. the Berlin Anti-Terrorism Conference and the Bali Interfaith Dialogue).

The following *ASEM Acquis* encompasses issues that might be addressed by the Heads of State and Government at the Helsinki Summit in the session on multilateralism and security threats:

- Promoting a fair, just, and rule-based multilateral international system with the UN playing a central role
- Promotion of international standards of governance, the respect for universal human rights and the implementation of the UN Human Rights Covenants and Treaties

- Universalisation, implementation, and compliance with international disarmament and non-proliferation instruments
- Disarmament and the non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery
- Disarmament and non-proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and anti-personnel landmines (APL)
- Prevention of/fight against terrorism
- Prevention of organised crime (and other non-traditional threats to international peace and security); e.g. trafficking in human beings; illicit drugs; illicit small arms and light weapons
- Reinforcing cooperation in the field of international migration
- Fight against HIV/AIDS and other global health threats
- Dialogue on the International Criminal Court

The preparatory work under these broad themes might focus on the following policy issues/programmes/projects:

- Supporting the UN led multilateral international system including international environmental governance and reaffirming the commitment to promote peace and security, development and human rights in accordance with the UN Charter and international law while at the same time welcoming and underlining the importance of the balanced and extensive package of reforms for the UN agreed at the World Summit in September 2005. Full implementation of these reforms represents a vital part in the development of an international order based on effective multilateralism and the rule of law.
- As an important step to strengthen the legal framework for international counter-terrorism cooperation, promoting the efforts to ensure the early entry into force of the International Convention on the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism, as well as emphasising the importance of ratification and full implementation of the other 12 universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols.
- Developing mutual trust between the officials comprises an essential part in the common efforts to strengthen the cooperation structures in the prevention of/fight against terrorism. The work already commenced at the ASEM Anti-Terrorism Conferences, the previous meeting organised by Germany in October 2004 and Indonesia in November 2005, and the next one by Denmark in June 2006, could be continued in the form of enhanced exchange of information and closer cooperation between the authorities responsible for counter-terrorism, such as the Heads of the Counter-Terrorism Agencies. A closer cooperation would enable more effective implementation of relevant UN Conventions and ASEM decisions and declarations on counter-terrorism.
- Enhancing cooperation and technical assistance in counter-terrorism capacity building and supporting and making use of the existing programmes such

as the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) in Indonesia, the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) in Malaysia, and the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Thailand.

- Parallel with the need to ensure an effective response to terrorist threats and terrorist incidents, attention should be paid to the need to respond to radicalisation and recruitment into violent extremism. This work would tie in with ongoing initiatives designed to foster a more general dialogue between cultures and civilizations, such as the Bali Interfaith Dialogue and its' follow-up meeting in Cyprus in 2006.
- Taking stock of regional developments and the experiences of collective security arrangements in both Asia and Europe, such as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Aceh peace process and the Six-Party Talks on North Korea.
- Taking into consideration the shared interest in ensuring an effective response to serious forms of organised crime [e.g. trafficking in persons, drug trafficking, trafficking in firearms, and corruption] and recognising the important role of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime (Palermo Convention) and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (Merida Convention) in this work, the cooperation between the Law Enforcement and Judicial Authorities should be enhanced. The discussion might focus on the advisability of formulating, at a later stage, an ASEM Plan of Action on Organised Crime. Some of these issues were discussed in the Prosecutors General Meeting in Shenzhen in December 2005.
- Addressing issues concerning good governance, human rights, and the rule of law, inter alia through supporting and continuing the Informal ASEM Seminars on Human Rights, which was organised by Hungary in February 2006.
- The Director-General level meetings on migratory flows including e.g. trafficking in persons, illegal immigration and information exchange, comprise an important part of the cooperation on international migration. The last meeting was organised by Indonesia in December 2005, to be followed by a meeting hosted by Finland in December 2006.
- Enhancing/strengthening cooperation and developing policies against trafficking in human beings. Special attention should be given to the vulnerable situation of the victims.
- Furthermore, possible issues to be addressed under the broad security agenda might include action to combat global health threats such as e.g. the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and access to medicines.

II. Sustainable development (including environment and energy security)

The search for a sustainable energy/environment balance represents a global challenge that Asia and Europe need to face together.

At the Hanoi Summit the discussions under the second pillar (economic issues) focused largely on energy and environment as the Heads of State and Government expressed their interest in energy issues both from the perspective of climate and energy security.

At the Kyoto FMM the Ministers recommended that one of the areas that the Leaders should focus on at ASEM6 should be sustainable development including environment and energy security, while the Finance Ministers stressed in Tianjin in 2005 the importance of investing in new capacity, conserving energy, developing alternative fuels, and increasing energy efficiency. Energy was one of the main themes also at the High Level Meeting in the Framework of the Economic Ministers Meeting in Rotterdam in September 2005. One of the main challenges facing the global community in the 2nd semester of 2006 will be to work for the post 2012 climate regime under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The main events in this respect will be the 12th session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP12) and the second Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP2) to be held in November 2006.

Furthermore, in addition to the post 2012 climate regime the discussion at ASEM6 would cover various aspects of the environment and energy theme including energy security and the ways to enhance it.

The following ASEM acquis encompasses issues that might be addressed by the Heads of State and Government at the Helsinki Summit in the session on sustainable development including environment and energy security:

- Enhancing the multilateral dialogue on international climate change policies including support for the development of the post-2012 regime under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Emphasizing the important role of the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol
- Enhancing energy security through energy conservation, promotion of energy efficiency and wider use of alternative energy sources
- Development of cleaner and more efficient technologies and the promotion of technological cooperation
- Promotion of efforts to strive towards a sound material-cycle society and more sustainable patterns of production and consumption

The preparatory work under these broad themes might focus on the following policy issues/programmes/projects:

- Asia and Europe have a joint interest in contributing to the multilateral dialogue on international climate change policies after 2012 and making the

COP 12 and COP/MOP2 events a success. [To this end, ASEM partners might convene, when appropriate, to discuss the ways to proceed in the climate negotiations before these meetings]

- Furthermore, the promotion of energy efficiency will be addressed as a means to enhance energy security and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The discussion will benefit from the outcome of the ASEM energy seminar organised by Japan and the European Commission in Tokyo, January 2006.
- The issue of climate change and energy security will also be addressed in an international workshop, organised by Finland and China, in Helsinki, June 2006.

Linked to these goals, ASEM partners might seek to enhance cooperation on the development of clean industrial production, recycling, energy production and conservation and transportation systems.

In order to focus the discussion it is suggested that economic and social dimensions of sustainable development not related to environment and energy security would be addressed in the other thematic sessions.

III. Dialogue among cultures and civilisations

Enhancing dialogue and cooperation among ASEM partners in the fields of education, science, and culture will promote understanding, respect, and tolerance between the peoples of Asia and Europe. Dialogue and concrete cooperation can prevent and overcome ignorance and prejudice, and thereby foster international peace and comprehensive security.

The intercultural dialogue between Asia and Europe is based on the mutual appreciation of the long history, richness and diversity of our respective cultures. The dialogue can take multiple shapes and is perhaps best manifested by the cooperation at the policy level and by the richness of initiatives that flourish on the grassroot level, such as people-to-people and cultural exchanges or promotion of cross-border circulation and distribution of cultural goods and services.

At the Paris Culture Ministers Meeting in June 2005, the Ministers identified points of common interest between Asia and Europe for the protection and promotion of cultural diversity and agreed on an action plan that set out the priorities for the years to come, while the Bali Interfaith Dialogue in July 2005 underlined the importance of promoting interfaith harmony through dialogue and the need to translate shared values of peace, compassion, and tolerance into practical actions.

Culture can be viewed as a cross-cutting issue within the ASEM framework. Accordingly, the preparatory work based on the above mentioned values should aim at reinforcing broadly the dialogue between Asia and Europe.

The following *ASEM acquis* encompasses issues that might be addressed by the Heads of State and Government at the Helsinki Summit in the session on dialogue among cultures and civilisations:

- Promoting mutual understanding and dialogue between cultures and civilisations
- Promoting cultural diversity and the respect for the equal dignity of all cultures (unity in diversity)
- Strengthening cooperation and exchange of experiences in various fields of culture, education, and research The preparatory work under these broad themes might focus on the following policy issues/programmes/projects:
- Promoting the dialogue among cultures and civilisations in accordance with the set of priorities and the action plan adopted at the 2nd ASEM Culture Ministers Meeting hosted by France in June 2005. The next meeting will be organized by Malaysia in 2007.
- Enhancing cultural diversity and the equal dignity of all cultures with special emphasis on securing ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions adopted at the UNESCO General Conference in October 2005.
- In order to discuss the challenges of globalisation and to seek common solutions in the field of education, i.a. qualifications framework, quality, and educational markets, organising an ASEM Education Ministers Meeting should be considered.
- As a part of the comprehensive dialogue between ASEM partners, facilitating the process of Interfaith Dialogue, the first meeting held in Bali in July 2005 and the next meeting to be organised by Cyprus in 2006.
- Supporting and increasing people-to-people exchanges in the fields of education, culture, and research; developing the civil society dimension within ASEM cooperation emphasising particularly the closer integration and involvement of the young; and improving the visibility of ASEM.
- Strengthening the Asia-Europe Foundation's (ASEF) role and utilisation in promoting dialogue; supporting and aligning ASEF activities closer to the ASEM process and securing the long term financial sustainability of ASEF through increased commitment of ASEM member states.
- Encouraging any cooperation initiative with third countries in the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008).
- Exploring the scope for enhanced region-to-region interaction on research, a priority for Asia and Europe alike, in fields of mutual interest and benefit.

IV. Globalisation and competitiveness

Globalisation is bringing about an enormous acceleration of exchanges between the peoples of the world spurring economic growth and creating great opportunities and new challenges both in Asia and Europe. Deepening economic integration, rapid diffusion of new technologies, and increased competition have promoted investments and induced restructuring both in manufacturing and in services. These developments have boosted productivity thus creating good conditions for sustainable economic growth and increased employment. Globalisation also largely affects the developments and contents of culture, education, science, and technology, and the cooperation in the above mentioned fields and strengthening the networks between relevant institutions is increasingly important.

Asia and Europe both stand to gain from each others' experiences on how to manage the rapid transformations of the economy that have followed in the wake of globalisation: the experiences from best practices drawn from the European integration and the single market can contribute to Asian developments, while the dynamism of Asian entrepreneurship can inspire European approaches. Therefore, emphasising the aspect of two-way learning and joining forces to strengthen the structures of cooperation can help both regions to face the present and forthcoming challenges better and to promote fair globalisation.

Maximizing the benefits of globalisation is in the interest of everyone. A multilateral framework based on fair, equal, and transparent rules, a stable legislative environment and high quality infrastructure of energy, transport, and telecommunications that foster innovation and entrepreneurship comprise some of the most important building blocks required for sustainable economic growth, competitiveness, and social welfare. These objectives are embodied in the firm commitment of ASEM partners both in Asia and Europe to promote the multilateral trading system under the WTO, which can also be used as a tool for harnessing globalisation.

However, maximising the opportunities of globalisation is only half the solution. Globalisation in itself is no guarantee for development and prosperity. It is equally important to address the social dimension of globalisation through firm political responsibility and commitment, to promote productive employment and decent work as a global goal for all, and to ensure that all can gain from the opportunities and benefits created by increased interactions. These measures include firm commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and to a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round. In this respect the EU agreement to reach 0.7 % ODA/GNI by 2015, combined with the aim to make aid more effective and efficient, is instrumental.

It is equally important to reduce the present global imbalances to ensure stable and sustainable conditions for promoting global economic growth in the medium term. To this end, all countries concerned should - in a multi-pronged

approach - implement appropriate policies to contribute to an orderly global re-adjustment.

In an era of globalisation, to reach both macroeconomic stability and microeconomic efficiency has increasingly become an economic policy challenge to the governments. It is necessary to strive for improved sustainability in public finances and public sector efficiency while at the same time strengthening institutions, concentrating on effective policy delivery, and carrying out market reforms across the economy. This is also precipitated by the ageing of populations that will affect many ASEM partners in the near future.

The Economic agenda will be elaborated in accordance with the results and recommendations proposed by the high level meeting within the framework of the 6th Economic Ministers Meeting held in Rotterdam in September 2005 [*and the Economic Ministers Meeting to be organised before the Helsinki Summit*], the Financial Ministers Meeting arranged in Tianjin in July 2005 and to be held in Vienna in April 2006, and the first ASEM Labour Ministers Meeting to be organised by Germany in 2006.

The following *ASEM acquis* encompasses issues that might be addressed by the Heads of State and Government at the Helsinki Summit in the session on globalisation and competitiveness:

- Promoting trade and investment between Asia and Europe
- Firm commitment to the conclusion of the WTO Doha Round by the end of 2006
- Exploring possibilities to deepen economic relations on a regional level while respecting commitments taken in the framework of the WTO
- Follow-up of the Hanoi declaration on Closer Economic Partnership (CEP), notably in light of how to deliver more focused and concrete results in the ASEM Economic Pillar
- Follow-up of the Hanoi agreement on expanding cooperation to areas of common interest such as e.g. promoting sustainable economic growth and dialogue on employment and the social challenges brought about by globalisation
- Implementing the Tianjin initiative on Closer ASEM Economic and Financial Cooperation (in order to strengthen the economic and financial cooperation through enhanced policy dialogue, technical assistance, and examining new approaches in further improving the Asia-Europe ties with a long term vision)

The preparatory work under these broad themes might focus on the following policy issues/programmes/projects:

- Enhancing dialogue on international trade and capital flows and continuing the work to improve market access and regulatory environment both in the framework of the WTO and on a region-to-region basis.

- Addressing concrete barriers to trade and investment and considering ways to remove them by taking stock of and agreeing on concrete measures.
- Implementing in practice the decisions taken within the Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP) and the Investment Promotion Action Plan (IPAP), in particular in priority areas of customs, standards and conformity assessment, intellectual property rights, and electronic commerce.
- Continuing customs dialogue in existing fora in agreed priority areas of supply chain security and fight against counterfeit and piracy.
- Engaging the business community and the Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF) more directly into the work under the economic pillar.
- Improving the infrastructural links and logistical services between Asia and Europe.
- The ASEM Contingency Dialogue Mechanism for Emergent Economic and Financial Events.
- ASEM Trust Fund follow-up.
- Addressing questions related the social dimension of globalisation such as e.g. promoting productive employment and decent work as a global goal for all. Issues related to the social aspects of international trade and investment and their link to economic growth, development, and migration could be dealt with in the 1st ASEM Ministers of Labour Meeting in Germany in 2006. Moreover, questions related to human and social development are central also regarding global security.
- Exchanging experience on the future policy challenges faced by Asian and European governments, e.g. with regard to ageing.
- Promoting scientific cooperation, e.g. by utilising the opportunities offered by EU Research and Technology Development programmes and by defining specific fields of mutual interest and benefit.





ASEM 6

The 6th ASEM Summit at the level of Heads of State and Government took place in Helsinki on 10 and 11 September 2006. It was a historically significant event as it also marked the 10th anniversary of the ASEM process.

The overarching theme of the Summit was “10 Years of ASEM: Global Challenges - Joint Responses”, reflecting both the common objectives and global developments.

The agenda of the Helsinki Summit consisted of the following broad areas of cooperation:

- Strengthening multilateralism and addressing global security threats
 - Globalisation and competitiveness
- Sustainable development including environment and energy security
- Dialogue among cultures and civilisations