



1st Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC)

21 June 2017 (14:30 - 17:00), Brussels

Draft annotated agenda

As of 11 May 2017

Indicative timing:

14.30 – 16.00

1. Adoption of Agenda

2. Priority areas for boosting Connectivity in ASEM

To ground the work of the APGC in real life examples of existing efforts by European and Asian partners to boost Connectivity between the two regions, the meeting will first hear a number of short presentations from both the European and Asian perspective on the state of play in key thematic areas and then discuss the role of ASEM to strengthen and coordinate these initiatives and efforts. ASEM Partners wishing to speak are encouraged to contact the Chair beforehand.

- Transportation (covering both land and maritime routes) – Presentation by DG MOVE, link with preparation of ASEM Transport Ministerial in Indonesia in September
- Customs and trade facilitation - Presentation by DGs TAXUD and TRADE, link with preparation of ASEM Economics Ministers Meeting in South Korea in September
- Investment Financing – Presentation by European Investment Bank
- Digital Connectivity (including the outcome of the ASEM High Level Meeting on Digital Connectivity in Qingdao)



16.00 – 17.00

3. Towards a definition of Connectivity in the context of ASEM

The Terms of Reference of the APGC set out that its first aim is to arrive at 'a definition of Connectivity that meets the needs of ASEM'. Previous ASEM statements have underlined the need to cover all three ASEM pillars; to include both hard and soft aspects of connectivity (i.e. physical, digital and human) and to make the necessary link to sustainability in all its manifestations. At various ASEM Summits, Partners have underlined the importance of key principles such as respect for international rules and norms, transparency, labour and environmental standards, a level playing field, anti-corruption, climate proofing etc.

The APGC will have to go further and discuss the elements for a formal ASEM definition of sustainable connectivity, with a view to arrive at an agreement at the ASEM FMM 13 in November 2017. An initial input for these elements was provided by the EU and its Non Paper on ASEM Connectivity.

4. Strategy or work plan on Connectivity in the context of ASEM

The Terms of Reference of the APGC also include the possibility of working up a longer-term ASEM Connectivity strategy or work plan. The APGC will have an initial discussion on how Partners see the prospects for such an ASEM Connectivity Strategy or work plan; its added value and possible time-line for delivery.

5. Any other business