



ASEM DIALOGUE FACILITY



ASEM Public¹ Conference on EU-Asia Inter-Regional Relations

CONCEPT PAPER

Full name of the event: ASEM Public Conference on EU-Asia Inter-regional relations
Date: 12-13 July 2010
Location: Brussels
Venue: Charlemagne Building, 170 rue de la Loi, Alcide de Gasperi Room
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1. Context and purpose

- The main purpose of this conference is **to facilitate interested non-officials i.e. public policy thinkers, advisers and experts from think tanks, academia, civil society, press and private consultancies to contribute** their ideas to the ongoing official ASEM - Asia-Europe Meeting dialogue. ASEM has - since 1996 - been the main region to region dialogue between Asia and Europe providing a format for open and forward-looking discussions see http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/asem/index_en.htm
- This conference is planned to occur back-to-back with an ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting also in Brussels (separately hosted by Belgium) on 14th July 2010 to prepare **ASEM 8 - the Eighth ASEM Summit which Belgium will host 4-5th October 2010 in Brussels**. July 2010 is an opportune time to have a strategic dialogue on Asia-Europe region to region relations giving an opportunity for interested experts outside the official sphere to discuss and communicate their ideas to ASEM officials. **ASEM Officials will also be invited to participate and report on in this conference 12-13th July to enable them to appreciate and take account of the ideas coming out of non-official milieux in their preparations for the ASEM 8 Summit in October.**
- The regional dimension is becoming more and more important in both continents. Asia and Europe are each trying to consolidate their respective regional institutional architectures – aiming to become more unified and assertive regional powers on the world stage. Asia as a whole, as well as individual Asian countries, is increasingly important and pro-active in global affairs. Europe in the form of the European Union is an increasingly unified and coordinated player particularly following the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty. Inter-regional relations between Europe and Asia are deepening and widening. Bilateral relations between the European Union and individual Asian countries are also deepening. The intra-regional institutional architectures of Europe and of Asia are different and both are evolving.

¹ Non-official public policy thinkers, advisers and experts from think tanks, academia, civil society, press and private consultancies - by invitation.

2. Location and timing

- Brussels - European Commission meeting room(s) and facilities (up to 400 seats). The Alcide de Gasperi Room in the European Commission's Charlemagne Building at 170 rue de la Loi, Brussels 1040 has been reserved for the whole conference period.
- One and a half day event 12-13th July 2010, pre-ceded by a welcome dinner (by invitation only for the speakers and panellists named in the programme to meet and coordinate) the evening before - 11th July.
- All participants will receive a buffet lunch (outside the conference room) on 12th July and also a dinner on 12th July will be hosted by the European Commission (at a hotel near the conference venue).
- (A separate ASEM Senior Officials Meeting is scheduled to occur in Brussels immediately after this conference beginning with a dinner 13th July and the formal ASEM SOMeeting on 14-15th July 2010 hosted by Belgium.)

3. Participants

- **Hosts: European Commission and Belgium** (the upcoming host of the ASEM 8 Summit) as the European Coordinators of ASEM for second half 2010.
- **Co-sponsors:** Belgium and other Asian and European ASEM partners.
- Speakers, panelists and participants will be invited from: **public policy think tanks, academia, civil society, press and private consultancy advisers** (estimate 3 to 5 invitees per ASEM member) plus up to three officials from each ASEM member – (maximum room capacity is 400 participants).
- **The target audience will be ASEM Senior Officials and ASEM Contact points** from the 45 (soon to be 48 – Australian, New Zealand and Russian participants will be invited as guests of the chair) ASEM member countries and organizations who will be invited as auditors/observers during the main working sessions, and to be active discussants in the discussion/concluding part of each session and during the closing session.

4. Financing of the conference

The European Commission ASEM Dialogue Facility 2 grant financing for:

- the premises and the logistics of the meeting
- a welcome dinner for speakers on 11th July the eve of the conference, and for all participants a lunch and the dinner on the first day of the conference 12th July
- the preparation of a brief issues paper and conference dossier to provide input/starters/purposes for each session of the conference, and,
- travel and subsistence costs for speakers and panellists from outside Brussels, and for two or three participants from each of the Asian developing country members of ASEM.

5. Objectives

Elucidate discuss and where possible identify priorities and positions on important areas of common interest, in order to set scene for the ASEM 8 Summit in Brussels in October 2010, regarding in particular:-

- Europe-Asia political relations: regional architectures and security arrangements
- Global economic, financial and social policies and regulation: the evolving roles of Asia and Europe, trade, sustainable development, and social cohesion
- Environmental regulation and Climate Change: policies of Asia and Europe
- Human dimensions of the relations between Europe and Asia: enhancing links and cooperation on educational and cultural relations
- Improve mutual perceptions of Asia and Europe, and the visibility and transparency of the ASEM process

6. Specific Outputs

- Involvement of non-official public policy thinkers, advisers and experts from think tanks, academia, civil society, press and private consultancies in agenda-setting and the preparations for the ASEM 8 Summit.
- Enhanced public transparency and awareness of the ASEM process in the run-up to the ASEM 8 Summit.
- Provide ideas, conclusions and proposals to ASEM Officials to prepare the ASEM 8 Summit and its follow-up.
- Wider and deeper involvement and participation of ASEM developing country participants in ASEM agenda-setting and ongoing dialogue.