

**Declaration of the Tenth Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership
Meeting
27-28 September 2018, Brussels, European Union**

1. The Tenth Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP 10) was held on 27-28 September 2018 in Brussels, European Union, focussing on climate change and environmental challenges as a priority for the planet and of multilateralism as a fair methodology to shape advanced and equitable international relationships. During the Meeting three panels were held on the impact of climate change and environmental challenges on security, migration and economy.
2. The meeting was presided by Ms Heidi Hautala, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Ms Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh, and Mr Scott Ryan, President of the Senate of Australia, involved the active participation of Parliamentarians from ASEM countries - Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Laos, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, Vietnam and the European Parliament. The European External Action Service, the European Commission, the Asia-Europe Foundation, as well as representatives of several other organizations and experts also took part in this event as guests of the host parliament.
3. ASEP 10 welcomes the outcome of the 2016 meeting, held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and praised the inter-parliamentary cooperation shaped by all the previous meetings of ASEP in Strasbourg (1996), Manila (2002), Hue City (2004), Helsinki (2006), Beijing (2008), Brussels (2010), Vientiane (2012) and Rome (2014). Each ASEP has deeply contributed to paving the way for a direct

dialogue among legislators and citizens' representatives across Asia and Europe, forging a strong Asia-Europe Partnership.

Global governance in time of changes and role of ASEM

4. ASEP 10 pays tribute to the successful collective efforts made by several countries and their citizens, in promoting a safer environment, with more access to education for all, more food security, more space for free expression of their people, increased gender equality and peace; ASEP 10 believes that positive results need to be welcomed being also a promising perspective for much needed further efforts.
5. ASEP 10 considers that the partnership established between Asia and Europe in discussing and cooperating on any global relevant issue in the political sphere is a remarkable achievement in itself; the entire ASEM process, of which ASEP is a fundamental part, prove to be an indispensable bridge between both regions on an increasingly articulated and interconnected world.
6. While acknowledging achievements, ASEP 10 fully recognizes that Asian and European societies face a plurality of challenges directly affecting the life and hopes of citizens, constantly confronted with a mutating social, economic and security environment; therefore ASEP stresses the need to address a complex and uncertain landscape which keeps moving and encompasses a variety of critical challenges, such as terrorism, old and new conflicts, refugees, migration, climate change, market disruptions, financial and fiscal distortions, social and gender inequalities, human rights abuse, organised crime, natural disasters and other humanitarian crisis, technological gap and other critical issues; ASEP is firmly convinced that those challenges are inter-connected and that can be effectively addressed only through defining common interest between Asia and Europe in global fora and in implementing concerted actions.
7. ASEP 10 expresses its concern with recent developments in the international community which could undermine an effective global cooperation and underlines the importance of reinforcing, and not weakening, multilateral cooperation through different international fora and international agreements - in trade, climate change, security, ocean governance, trafficking of people and of narcotics, and other key sectors; ASEP 10 believes that both Asia and Europe, representing more about 60% of world population and world GDP, must re-affirm the common objective of promoting multilateralism as

the most effective and fair methodology in addressing common issues.

Developing the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership

8. ASEP 10 emphasises that Asia and Europe are by many aspects and certainly in a strict geographic concept, part of a same area; peoples movements, cultural identities and origins, trades, political relations, have been shaping a common ground for centuries; the Euro-Asian dimension is not just a rhetoric formula but is a human landscape facing the same inter-dependent destiny.
9. ASEP 10 confirms the role of ASEM in providing a unique platform bridging Europe and Asia and shaping a partnership which is of strategic importance in time of disruption of global governance and of challenges to multilateralism mechanism.
10. ASEP 10 recalls that ASEM partnership is fully based on the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights and the United Nations Charter and the United Nations on Human Rights as well as respect for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, self-determination of peoples, non-interference in internal affairs and non-use of force or threat of force.
11. ASEP 10 believes that the ASEM partnership is complementary and part of the joint efforts in reinforcing multilateral cooperation at UN, WTO and other multilateral levels.
12. ASEP 10 welcomes the deepening of activities, both horizontal and sectorial of the ASEM partnership, and encourages further cooperation between the regions in order to achieve dialogue aimed to reinforced political, economic and socio-cultural cooperation.
13. ASEP 10 also stresses that the ASEM partnership can be successful only if the citizens' concerns are fully taken into account in its agenda; this requires a structural dialogue between the executive level and the parliamentary dimension, which needs to fully play its scrutiny role.
14. ASEP 10 also encourages the role of civil society organisations, business associations, trade unions and media in forging better understanding and pluralism and in providing economic and human

development of Asian and European societies. ASEP 10 expresses its concern over efforts to censor media.

15. ASEP 10 calls for the establishment of mechanism empowering its members to have more regular contacts, in order to provide a better parliamentary follow-up of ASEM related activities.

Climate changes and environmental challenges

16. ASEP 10 reminds that science has provided early warnings about the consequences of climate change on human vulnerabilities and on the overall future of the planet, yet policies have only been able to partially address the issue; therefore ASEP 10 recalls that climate change is one of the most important challenges for mankind and that all states and players worldwide need to do their utmost to fight it; ASEP 10 calls upon all countries to fully implement the Paris Agreement including the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
17. ASEP 10 stresses that, according to the WHO, UNFCCC as part of JLG, SDGs a part of UN knowledge, climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health - clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter - and that between 2030 and 2050, 250 000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress, are expected with extreme high air temperatures contributing directly to deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory disease.
18. ASEP 10 calls for the highest political commitment to the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement in all its aspects, including, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity-building and transparency of actions and support, in reflection of equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities.
19. ASEP 10 emphasizes the urgency and priority of acceleration the implementation of pre-2020 commitments and actions to build mutual trust among the implementation of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.
20. ASEP 10 stresses that commitments under the Paris Agreement to limit the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to further pursue efforts of limitation of

temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, as well as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the second half of this century, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

21. ASEP 10 stresses that the completion of the Paris Agreement Work programme at COP24 in Katowice this December will be crucial to providing certainty and confidence to governments and business and that effective guidance on all elements of the Paris Agreement Work Programme will drive future ambition and ensure finance and investment can flow towards its implementation.
22. ASEP 10 recalls that the Paris Agreement requires all Parties to take action to conserve and enhance sinks, including forests; ASEP 10 stresses that deforestation and forest degradation are the second leading cause of global warming and are responsible for global greenhouse gas emissions, and emphasises the importance of taking the right policy approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests in order to deliver both carbon and non-carbon benefits.
23. ASEP 10 notes that halting deforestation and forest degradation and allowing forests to regrow would provide a significant part of all mitigation action needed to limit global warming to below 2°C.
24. ASEP 10 recalls that limiting the rise in global temperature to well below 2°C does not guarantee that significant adverse climate impacts will be avoided. ASEP 10 stresses therefore that global GHG emissions should reach their peak as soon as possible and that all Parties should step up their efforts and upgrade their Nationally Determined Contributions and to strengthen efforts over time, in accordance with the purpose and provisions of the Paris Agreement. Developed country parties shall provide financial resource to assist developing country Parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation in continuation of their existing obligation under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. ASEP 10 countries look forward to participating in the 3talanoa Dialogue” at COP24 and sharing stories about climate action that will help all countries identify pathways for ambition and inform the Nationality Determined Contributions.
25. ASEP 10 recalls that climate change adaptation action is an inevitable necessity for all countries if they are to minimise negative effects and

make full use of the opportunities for climate-resilient growth and sustainable development.

26. ASEP 10 urges actions to be taken to address climate change adaptation through a combination of multiple factors, including compatible and well-coordinated regional, national and local strategies, strengthening of capacity and resilience mechanism of populations and ecosystems by reducing the vulnerability of natural and human structures with early warning systems, sea defences, resettlement of inhabitants away from flood zones, and a specific measure to counter-balance possible negative effects of those measures on certain populations.
27. ASEP 10 expresses the need to set ambitious goals on production and consumption of plastic, particularly single-use plastic items, and invites ASEM to consider firm recommendations in this direction towards achieving significant progress to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (Goal 12 of the Sustainable Development Goals).
28. ASEP 10 expresses its serious concern about the continuing loss of biodiversity which has an overwhelming intrinsic value that must be protected for the benefit of future generations, and stresses the critical role of biodiversity in the Sustainable Development Goals.
29. ASEP 10 calls on government and relevant and international organisations to coordinate approaches to development and to recognise effective action on climate change in order to shape an integrated policy, consolidating approaches on climate change and the defence of global environment diplomacy.
30. ASEP 10 underlines that climate change and environmental distress may generate greater social impacts and therefore calls for economic and social empowerment of people through sustainable development to prevent dramatic situations of social conflict.
31. ASEP 10 urges for a comprehensive action to be taken in managing the development of urban areas, as well as smart cities in compliance with energy efficiency not only megalopolis but also middle and small size cities, where the majority of inhabitants live and where sustainable development and minimum standards of quality of living require adequate funding and actions on waste management and water management, use of renewable energies both on large and small scale, smart mobility, digital connectivity and appropriate mechanism for local community involvement in the decision-making process.

32. ASEP 10 believes that Asian and European stakeholders should increase an exchange of best practices on sustainable urban development and its impact on climate change, both in terms of legislation and of technology, further enhancing cooperation among political, academic and business actors.
33. ASEP 10 is alarmed by the magnitude of natural disasters and by the fact that hundreds of millions of people, particularly women and children, are extremely vulnerable to natural calamities, namely earthquakes, storms, tsunamis, and severe floods and droughts, which put sustainable development at risk. In this regard, it is the duty of the parliamentarians to emphasize the importance of ensuring disaster risk reduction, and that disaster management is well integrated into development and poverty reduction strategies as well as in regional and international cooperation.
34. ASEP 10 reiterates that parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.
35. ASEP 10 underlines the need to focus on the complex links between climate change and displacement. ASEP 10 invites stakeholders, including ASEM governments and parliaments, to further develop understanding of the drivers and solutions for displacement caused by climate change.
36. ASEP 10 emphasises that management of water resources represents a crucial challenge to the survival of humankind, and it is also a sensitive factor for potential instability, being one of the source of conflicts and of the lack of adequate joint governance; ASEP 10 urges governments to enforce ambitious programmes for both internal and cross-border water cooperation and to shape a water-diplomacy based on advanced cooperation and joint governance of water resources; ASEP 10 recalls the findings of the United Nations Security Council Open Session on Water, Peace and Security, held on 22 November 2016. ASEP 10 believes that cooperation on water resources is also a leading factor for mitigation of climate changes impact on security, migration and well-being of population.
37. ASEP 10 recalls the right of citizens to achieve safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene

through environmental policies in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 6.

38. ASEP 10 reiterates a previous ASEP request for pushing for the capitalisation of European and Asian experiences of sustainable plant based development of food systems, with special regard to the role of small farming agriculture, of small and medium entrepreneurs and of inclusive, multilevel and coherent policies especially at local level. In this regard, a particular focus should be given to family farming and the role of women and young people. ASEP 10 draws attention to the importance of healthy and rich oceans, and sustainable blue growth. ASEP 10 underscores the importance of tackling challenges related to maritime ocean governance due to climate change, as well as unsustainable use of living marine resources, including illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (UUF), on the environment and the economy. Furthermore, ASEP 10 stressed the importance of long term elimination of discharge of litter and micro-plastic to the oceans and the need to move towards green shipping.
39. ASEP 10 maintains that a comprehensive approach to the entire cycle of food production and consumption is crucial and that in this perspective a balanced ecosystem - based on halting and reversing land degradation and biodiversity loss, including in crop production - must be pursued to protect the health of living beings, ensuring that the long-term guardianship of the landscape as a result of human activity on earth.
40. ASEP 10 calls ASEM governments, international institutions and the private sector to step up efforts to safeguard food security while taking action to combat climate change and for a cleaner and healthier environment. ASEP 10 welcomes efforts by international organisations, including the UN agencies the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to contribute to climate action.

Human Rights

41. Approaching the 70th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights, ASEP 10 reiterates its unwavering commitment to universal human rights and its resolve to strengthen the international system based on human rights, effective multilateral institutions and international cooperation underpinned by UN institutions, mechanisms and procedures; underlines its commitment to independent national and regional human rights institutions and mechanisms.

42. ASEP 10 parliamentarians underline that respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law and the fight against corruption are fundamental building blocks of just, equitable and inclusive societies in Asia and Europe that need to seek common ground through dialogue, cooperation and partnership.

Security cooperation

43. ASEP 10 underlines the crucial goal of providing peace, stability and a safe environment to all countries; recalls the need to preventing conflicts through peaceful means in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and by respecting the sovereignty independence and territorial integrity of each state. ASEP 10 stresses the role of the UN Security Council in this respect.

44. ASEP 10 reiterates its full support to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action concerning the Iranian nuclear programme and believes that only mutual trust, cooperation and engagement through an increase of diplomatic, trade and people-to-people relations, can provide a stable and peaceful landscape.

45. ASEP 10 reiterates the vital importance and urgency of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

46. ASEP 10 considers in a positive way recent diplomatic initiatives in Korean peninsula and reiterates its concern on the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes; invites all Member States to fully respect the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and agree to a constructive plan aimed to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and supports efforts aimed at peaceful co-existence and trust building measures amongst countries of the region in general and concretely replacing the truce by a peace treaty ending officially the Korean war.

47. ASEP 10 although welcomes the decision of the DPRK leadership to introduce a moratorium on nuclear and missile tests from April 21, 2018, invites all countries to make efforts in order to achieve a lasting and stable peace regime in this region via trust-building measures amongst the countries involved;

48. ASEP 10 also underlines the importance of promoting equal and indivisible security and believes that security and mutual trust mechanisms should be updated in order to limit the increase of military expenditures and pay more funds for human development.

49. ASEP 10 expresses its utmost concern to the situation of the Rohingya people, and calls on all involved parties and international donors to step up assistance to refugees and, notably on the authorities of Myanmar, to provide a safe environment for the reintegration and the development of those communities.

Trade relations

50. ASEP 10 reaffirms the central importance of international rules-based open, free, transparent and non-discriminatory trade, through a multilateral system and realisation on sustainable develop agenda and ensuring that multilaterally agreed rules are uniformly applied; in this context the WTO role is key, functioning as a negotiating forum for its members and providing a platform for open discussion on global trade related issues; joint commitment of WTO members is needed in the current global context to preserve the efficiency and the central role of the WTO, if needed, through appropriate reforms. ASEP 10 also notes this is consistent with the aim of multilateral trading system integrated and mutually supportive with the realisation of the sustainable development agenda to the maximum extent.

51. ASEP 10 calls for appropriate implementation of core ILO labour standards, sustainable environmental impact, fiscal fairness, the fight against corruption and transparent and equitable dispute settlement mechanisms; countries should also refrain from introducing trade-distorting or protectionist measures - tariff and non-tariff barriers - and should strive towards the elimination where such measures are in place, this being a necessary precondition for a further strengthening of trade and investment ties between all ASEM members.

Final Clauses

52. ASEP 10 charges the Chairs of the Meeting to report its deliberation to the ASEM leaders during the ASEM 12 Summit of Heads of State and Governments meeting in Brussels on 18-19 October 2018

53. ASEP 10 expresses its gratitude to the European Parliament the efficient organisation and the hospitality provided in organising the meeting.

54. ASEP 10 agrees that ASEP 11 Meeting will be held in Asia, and looks forward to the 2020 gathering.

Brussels, 28 September 2018