



ROYAUME DE BELGIQUE

Service public fédéral

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The Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation presents its compliments to the ASEM partners and the Russian Federation, Australia and New Zealand and has the honour to invite the ASEM partners and the Russian Federation, Australia and New Zealand as guests of the chair to the ASEM Negotiation Session on Piracy at Sea in Brussels on 24-25 June 2010. Participants mandated to represent the positions of their government are expected to attend this event.

Piracy at sea is threatening the maritime routes linking Europe and Asia. The phenomenon is taking on disturbing proportions; more energetic approaches may be required. In order to identify the issues of concern, a Seminar on Piracy at Sea was organised in Brussels on 4-5 May 2010. The Chair Summary is attached to this letter. It demonstrates that ASEM partners attribute high importance to this subject in view of the ASEM 8 Summit on 4-5 October in Brussels.

Now, Belgium wishes to welcome the ASEM partners and the Russian Federation, Australia and New Zealand as guests of the chair to the follow-up Preparatory event on 24-25 June 2010 in Brussels, as announced in the draft Annotated Agenda. This event is an integral part of the preparatory process for the ASEM 8 Summit. It involves a negotiation session among all ASEM partners with a view to thoroughly prepare the Summit message relating to piracy at sea, either as a stand-alone message or as part of the Chair Statement. In preparation of this negotiation session, Belgium will put forward a draft text which will be circulated on or around 7 June 2010. This text will amongst others draw on the work accomplished during the Seminar on Piracy at Sea.

To facilitate travel arrangements, a preliminary version of the event program as well as the administrative circular with further practical information are attached to this note. Delegations are requested to register online for this event through <http://www.asem8.be/registration-preparatory-events> and this by Friday 18 June 2010 at the latest.

The Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to ASEM partners and the Russian Federation, Australia and New Zealand the assurances of its highest consideration.

Brussels, 20 May 2010

To the ASEM partners and the Russian Federation, Australia and New Zealand

Attachments : Preliminary version of the event program; Administrative Circular; ASEM Seminar on Piracy at Sea Chair Summary

