



European Commission



ASIA-EUROPE MEETING

ASEM 6,  
10-11 September 2006,  
Helsinki



ASEM 10  
Ten years of ASEM

# 10 Years of ASEM: Global Challenges – Joint Responses



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
External Relations



EN



The logo of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) expresses the idea of interaction between Asia and Europe through the intertwined forms of an Asian brush-stroke and a simplified roman E. These also combine to form the letters A and E, symbolising Asia and Europe. The logo represents two different yet intertwined cultures of East and West seeking to come together and interact. The colours of the logo – red and blue – represent Asia and Europe respectively.

The logo for the ASEM 6 Summit represents the cooperation process that brings together the European Union Member States, the European Commission and the countries of Northeast and Southeast Asia. The logo contains references to the East and the clean lines of the lotus blossom. Transparent colours convey openness. The blue represents the European Union, the yellow Asia and the red the common objectives of the Summit. The centre of the logo features the Roman numeral X, to mark the tenth anniversary of the ASEM process.



ASEM 6,  
10-11 September 2006,  
Helsinki

# **10 Years of ASEM: Global Challenges – Joint Responses**



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
External Relations 

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Finland and the European Commissioner for  
External Relations and European Neighbourhood  
Policy**

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# Forewords



Every second year the leaders of Asia and Europe have an outstanding opportunity to gather together at a Summit to discuss topical issues on the international agenda and find mutually beneficial answers to regionally and globally important questions. Finland has the honour

to host the Sixth Summit of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) on 10 and 11 September 2006 in its capacity as the president of the European Union during the latter half of 2006.

The forthcoming ASEM Summit will be an important milestone in Asia-Europe relations as it celebrates the tenth anniversary of the ASEM cooperation process.

By bringing together the leaders of Asia and Europe, the ASEM 6 Summit will offer an excellent opportunity not only to take stock of past experiences, but also to reflect the present and to look ahead to the future. Beside the Summit, a number of other events in the fields of civil society, culture, arts, media and business will be organised in honour of the anniversary. Together with its Asian and European partners, Finland, as the host country of ASEM 6, is strongly committed to taking the ASEM process forward into its second decade.

**Erkki Tuomioja**

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Finland



As two of the major actors on the world stage, Asia and Europe have a lot to gain from each other and to offer the world through building a closer partnership. Over the past decade, the political, economic and cultural ties between the two regions have grown in

leaps and bounds. The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) has played a key role in facilitating this development, offering an open dialogue platform for partners to exchange views on a wide range of issues of common interest, and has provided an important impetus to the development of relations at the bilateral level, as well as in other inter-regional and multilateral fora.

As it enters its second decade, ASEM will continue to fulfil its purpose of bringing Asia and Europe together to meet the many challenges and opportunities that exist in our increasingly globalised world. More than ever before, this calls for the participation and support of all stakeholders – governments, parliaments, business communities, civil society groups and the population at large in Asia and Europe. The European Commission will continue to work with all parties concerned to realise the full potential of ASEM in the promotion of a closer Asia-Europe partnership.

**Benita Ferrero-Waldner**

European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy

# 1. What is ASEM?

ASEM, the Asia-Europe Meeting, is a forum that constitutes the main multilateral channel for communication between Asia and Europe. It represents a process based on dialogue with the objective of strengthening interaction and mutual understanding between the two regions.

## 1.1 Why ASEM?

The origins of the ASEM process lay in a recognition by both Asia and Europe that the relationship between the two regions needed to be strengthened to reflect the new global context of the 1990s, marked by the end of the Cold War, the deepening of European integration and the growing importance of Asia on the world stage. In July 1994, the European Commission published "Towards a New Asia Strategy", stressing the importance of modernising the relationship with Asia, and of properly reflecting Asia's growing political, economic and cultural significance. In November 1994, Singapore and France proposed that an Asia-Europe summit meeting be held, to consider how to build a new partnership between the two regions.

The first ASEM Summit was held in Bangkok in March 1996, marking the beginning of an on-going process including Summit-level meetings every other year and a range of meetings and activities at ministerial and working levels.

*The ASEM 1 Summit,  
1-2 March 1996, Bangkok.*





## ASEM in the World (%)

	European Union (EU) Member States	Asian ASEM countries	ASEM
World Population (2005)	7.2	29.8	36.9
World GDP <sup>(1)</sup> (2005)	31.2	20.7	52.0
World Trade in goods (2004) <sup>(2)</sup>	18.1	25.6	43.7
World FDI <sup>(3)</sup> Inflows (2002- 2004) <sup>(2)</sup>	27	23	50
World FDI Outflows (2002-2004) <sup>(2)</sup>	32	14	46

<sup>(1)</sup> Gross domestic product.

<sup>(2)</sup> Excluding intra-EU trade and FDI.

<sup>(3)</sup> Foreign direct investment.

Sources: Eurostat, IMF(Dots), UNCTAD

## 1.2 ASEM Partners

ASEM initially comprised 15 European Union (EU) member states and the European Commission, with ten Asian countries (Brunei Darussalam, China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam). At the ASEM 5 Summit at Hanoi, ten new EU members (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) and three Asian countries (Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar) joined as partners. ASEM partners now include 38 countries plus the European Commission.



Austria



Latvia



Brunei Darussalam



Belgium



Lithuania



Cambodia



Cyprus



Luxembourg



China



Czech Republic



Malta



Indonesia



Denmark



The Netherlands



Japan



Estonia



Poland



Republic of Korea



Finland



Portugal



Laos



France



Slovakia



Malaysia



Germany



Slovenia



Myanmar



Greece



Spain



The Philippines



Hungary



Sweden



Singapore



Ireland



United Kingdom



Thailand



Italy



European Commission



Vietnam

## 2. How does ASEM work?

### 2.1 The ASEM Process

ASEM is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation among partners on all issues of common interest to Asia and Europe.

Summit meetings are held every other year in Asia and Europe alternatively. This is the highest level of decision making in the process, featuring the Heads of State or Government and the President of the European Commission. So far, five Summit meetings have been held, i.e. Bangkok (1996), London (1998), Seoul (2000), Copenhagen (2002) and Hanoi (2004). The next Summit meeting is to be held in Helsinki on 10-11 September 2006.



*The ASEM 5 Summit Meeting, 8-9 October 2004, Hanoi.*

The overall coordination of the ASEM process is in the hands of the foreign ministers and their senior officials, who meet on a regular basis. They are assisted by a group of four coordinators, two from Europe (the European Commission and the EU Presidency currently held by Finland) and two from Asia (one representative each from the ten Southeast Asian countries and the three Northeast Asian countries, currently Indonesia and Republic of Korea respectively), which meet as and when necessary (normally two or three times a year).

Apart from the above, the ASEM process is carried forward through a series of ministerial meetings and working-level meetings on different areas, notably:

- Finance Ministers' Meetings
- Economic Ministers' Meetings
- Ministerial Conferences on Cultures and Civilisations
- Environment Ministers' Meetings
- Finance Deputies' Meetings (reporting to the Finance Ministers)
- Senior Officials' Meetings on Trade and Investment (reporting to the Economic Ministers)

In addition to these core meetings, many expert-level, thematic working meetings and symposia have been organised, often involving the business communities and civil society groups of the two regions.

The only permanent institution of the ASEM process is the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), a non-profit organisation established in Singapore in 1997. It has organised a large number of seminars, workshops and other activities to facilitate dialogue and consultations among different civil society constituencies (e.g. academia, non-government organisations (NGOs), media, youth and business leaders) and policy-makers, complementing the official ASEM process.

## 2.2 Key Characteristics of the ASEM Process

- It is **informal**. It provides an open forum for policy makers and officials to discuss any political, economic and social issues of common interest. In this way it **complements** work carried out in bilateral and multilateral fora, such as the United Nations (UN) and World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- It is **multidimensional**, covering the full spectrum of relations between the two regions, and devoting equal weight to political, economic and cultural issues.
- It emphasises **equal partnership**, through a process of dialogue and cooperation based on mutual respect and mutual benefit.
- It provides a platform for meetings at a **high level** (heads of state or government, ministers and senior officials), and with an increasing focus on fostering **people-to-people** contacts in all sectors of society.

## 3. What does ASEM do?

ASEM activities can be grouped into three pillars: political, economic and social/cultural/intellectual.

### 3.1 The Political Pillar

ASEM has become a privileged framework where Asian and European countries can discuss major political issues on the international agenda, and address important regional developments in a non-confrontational way. The focal activities within the political pillar are as follows:

**Reinforcing the multilateral system:** ASEM leaders are committed to multilateralism and a fair, just and rule-based international order with the UN playing the central role to resolve international disputes and address new global challenges and threats. High on the ASEM agenda is the reform of the UN. Specific issues such as Millennium Development Goals and peace-building have been addressed. ASEM partners have also decided to hold consultations on an ad hoc basis before sessions of the UN General Assembly to exchange views on relevant agenda items.

**Addressing international and regional developments:** Major international and regional issues are often discussed at ASEM meetings. When deemed appropriate, ASEM partners endorse a dedicated political declaration. For example, at the ASEM 3 Summit in 2000, partners adopted the Seoul Declaration for Peace on the Korean Peninsula, reaffirming their support for the process of inter-Korean reconciliation and cooperation. This common stance was reconfirmed at the Summits in 2002 and 2004.

**Security and anti-terrorism co-operation:** After the 9-11 terrorist attacks, the fight against international terrorism has become a priority for ASEM. At the ASEM 4 Summit in 2002, partners adopted the Declaration on Cooperation against International Terrorism and the Cooperation Programme on Fighting International Terrorism, emphasising the leading role of the UN in tackling terrorism and the need to identify and eliminate terrorism's root causes. At the Foreign Ministers' Meeting in May 2005, the Ministers called upon all states to ratify and implement all of the 12 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols. In addition, a number of Seminars on Anti-terrorism have been organised.

ASEM has also addressed the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. At the Foreign Ministers' Meeting in July 2003, Ministers agreed to issue the Political Declaration on Prevention of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Their Means of Delivery, reaffirming the importance of the implementation of relevant international conventions and protocols on non-proliferation.

**Tackling environmental issues:**

Environment is a subject of growing international concern. ASEM partners have discussed key environmental issues such as the future of the Kyoto Protocol, climate change and the follow-up of the World Summit for Sustainable Development. At the Environment Ministers' Meeting in October 2003, it was stressed that ASEM should be used to develop consultations among partners ahead of major international environmental negotiations.



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**Addressing human rights issues:** ASEM has developed into a forum where even sensitive issues such as human rights can be discussed. A series of Informal ASEM Seminars on Human Rights have been taking place since 1997. Issues addressed include access to justice, differences in Asian and European values, freedom of speech, sovereignty and humanitarian intervention, freedom of conscience and religion, labour protection, migrants' protection and minority rights.

**Dealing with global threats:** In recent years, ASEM has addressed issues such as transnational crime, migration, trafficking in persons in particular women and children, and drugs and health issues such as the fight against HIV/AIDS and infectious and pandemic diseases, which need to be tackled through international cooperation. A number of initiatives have been implemented to promote experience and information sharing.

## 3.2 The Economic Pillar

As two major economic actors in the world, Asia and Europe have a lot to gain through closer dialogue and cooperation with each other. Activities have included:

**Promoting economic multilateralism:** One of the key priorities of ASEM's work is to complement and reinforce efforts to strengthen the open and rule-based multilateral trading system embodied in the WTO. ASEM provides an environment in which partners can consult on WTO matters such as those relating to the Doha Development Agenda, with a view to arriving at common positions. WTO-related issues were the priority items at a number of ASEM Summits and ministerial meetings.

**Promoting trade and investment:** To complement the WTO's work, the ASEM 2 Summit in 1998 adopted the Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP) aimed at reduction and removal of non-tariff trade barriers. The Summit also adopted the Investment Promotion Action Plan (IPAP) to promote two-way investment flows between Asia and Europe, through business conferences and improvement of investment policy, regulation and promotion measures. In addition, good progress has been made in the promotion of e-commerce. The collective decision by ASEM partners in February 2005 to fight spam nationally and internationally is an example.

**Fostering dialogue on financial issues:** The ASEM financial dialogue focuses mainly on macro-economic issues by regularly reviewing the global economic situation and financial developments in both regions. Finance Ministers have pursued a dialogue on matters of common interest, including international financial architecture, supervisory principles and regulations in the financial sector, combating money laundering and strengthening co-operation in the field of customs.

**Managing crisis:** The Asian financial crisis in 1997-99 affected not only Asia but the world's economy as a whole. In response, the ASEM 2 Summit in 1998 took two major initiatives. Firstly, it adopted an ASEM Trade and Investment Pledge, expressing a common resolve to resist any protectionist pressures that might arise from the crisis. Secondly, an ASEM Asian Financial Crisis Response Trust Fund, co-financed by the European Commission and implemented by the World Bank, was launched in 1998 to provide technical advice and training to assist the countries affected by the crisis with their reforms in the financial and social sectors.

**Promoting dialogue with the business sector:** Economic cooperation between Asia and Europe would not be complete without the participation of the business community. As a follow-up to the ASEM 1 Summit in 1996, the Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF), involving business leaders and government representatives from the two regions, was launched to promote business partnership and business-government links. AEBF provides an opportunity for the business communities from Asia and Europe to review issues relating to trade and investment and offer input to the official ASEM dialogue. Currently, the AEBF is held every other year. The coming AEBF will be held in Helsinki on 10-11 September 2006 alongside the ASEM 6 Summit.



*The Ninth Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF), 7–8 October 2004, Hanoi.*

***Pursuing closer economic partnership:*** The ASEM 5 Summit in 2004 adopted the Hanoi Declaration on Closer ASEM Economic Partnership which affirmed a common commitment to pursue closer economic cooperation and called on the Finance Ministers to further explore ways to strengthen the economic partnership. In the finance field, the Finance Ministers launched the Tianjin Initiative on Closer ASEM Economic and Financial Cooperation in June 2005 to strengthen ASEM economic and financial cooperation through an enhanced policy dialogue, technical assistance, and exploration of new approaches for further enhancing ASEM ties in the long term. As a follow-up, the Finance Ministers approved the Terms of Reference of a new ASEM Contingency Dialogue Mechanism for Emergent Economic and Financial Events at their meeting in April 2006.



### 3.3 The Social/Cultural/Intellectual Pillar

Cultural dialogue and people-to-people contacts between Asia and Europe are indispensable to the promotion of mutual understanding and avoidance of conflicts. ASEM's activities in this field focus on the following:

**Promoting dialogue on cultures and civilisations:** ASEM partners are committed to developing cultural exchanges as well as protecting and promoting cultural expressions in various forms. Two ASEM Ministerial Conferences on Cultures and Civilisations were held, in China in 2003 and France in 2005. The ASEM 5 Summit in 2004 adopted the ASEM Declaration on Dialogue among Cultures and Civilisations, reaffirming that cultural diversity is the common heritage of humanity and an important driving force for economic progress and social development, conducive to building a more stable and peaceful world. ASEM partners' efforts helped rally support for the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in October 2005.

**Promoting interfaith dialogue:** ASEM is committed to promoting dialogue and building harmony among different religions and faiths. The First ASEM Interfaith Dialogue Meeting was held in Bali in July 2005, which brought together religious leaders, senior officials, intellectuals and media from ASEM partners. The meeting adopted the Bali Declaration on Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community, which affirmed that peace, justice, compassion and tolerance are keys to building international harmony and suggested measures in the fields of education, culture, media, religion and society in promoting these goals. The theme was developed further at the Second ASEM Interfaith Dialogue in Larnaca, Cyprus in July 2006.



*The First ASEM Interfaith Dialogue, Bali, 21-22 July 2005.*

**The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF):** The mission of ASEF is to promote understanding and collaboration between the peoples of Asia and Europe through cultural, intellectual and people-to-people exchanges. Funded by voluntary contributions from ASEM partners, ASEF has organised a large number of seminars, workshops and activities in the following four core areas:

- (1) The **Intellectual Exchange** programme aims to bring together representatives from civil society in its broadest sense, including the business sector, and government officials to contribute to the creation of networks and to policy debate and strategic thinking on themes including international relations, environment, governance (including human rights, justice and democracy), and intercultural/interfaith dialogue.
- (2) The **Cultural Exchange** programme seeks to provide young artists and cultural professionals with a platform to encourage the exchange of techniques and the creation of networks, and promote cultural policy development in Asia and Europe.



*I'mPulse, Asia-Europe Music Camp is a series of music camps organised to encourage creative interaction between musicians from Asia and Europe.*

- (3) The **People-to-People Exchange** programme seeks to strengthen youth networks, in particular among the next generation of leaders. Activities cover two main areas : educational exchanges, and cooperation and dialogues between youth and their organisations (e.g. Asia-Europe Young Political Leaders Symposium and Asia-Europe Young Entrepreneurs Forum).



*The ASEF University is a two-week intensive scholarship programme for undergraduates from Asia and Europe at venues that alternate between Asia and Europe.*

- (4) The **Public Affairs** programme provides publicity and press support for ASEF activities and seeks to raise public awareness of issues pertaining to Asia-Europe relations through media activities, such as TV documentaries, public lectures, the use of the Internet (the ASEM Infoboard website), and the publication of newsletters and the academic *Asia-Europe Journal*.



*The Asia-Europe TV Documentary Series, "Asia Meets Europe, Europe Meets Asia", showed how Asians and Europeans see the other region.*

**Developing Asia-Europe education co-operation:** Several initiatives have been developed, notably (1) the *ASEM Education Hubs*, a platform for cooperation that aims to forge stronger links and to promote knowledge transfer among universities and institutions of higher learning, as well as exchanges of students and faculties in Asia and Europe; and (2) the *ASEM DUO programme*, which is a fellowship-granting programme initiated by Korea, Singapore, and France, recently joined by Thailand, for university students and teachers from Europe to study and work in Asia and vice versa.

**Developing cooperation on information technology:** A remarkable example of ASEM's work in information technology cooperation is the Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) project, endorsed at the ASEM 3 Summit in 2000. Launched in December 2001, TEIN started by providing a direct intercontinental link between the research networks of France and Korea (TEIN1). In 2004, a second phase (TEIN2) was initiated with European Commission funding, providing a high capacity network linking the research and education networks in China, Korea, Japan, Australia and Southeast Asian countries with Europe's multi-gigabit network, GÉANT2. TEIN2 began operation in January 2006 and will be officially launched on 9 September 2006 in Helsinki before the ASEM 6 Summit.

With the powerful network links in place, researchers and academics can now engage in inter-regional and intra-regional collaborative research projects, access geographically dispersed databases, and carry out other projects where the rapid transfer of massive amounts of data is essential. Many of the applications supported by TEIN2, such as remote medical training, collaboration on disaster warning and e-learning, are bringing tangible benefits to the population at large.

**Reaching out to civil society and the wider public:** ASEM is not only about Asian officials meeting European officials. For example, the Finnish Government and ASEP will co-organise "ASEM@10: Connecting Civil Societies of Asia and Europe" in Helsinki on 7-8 September 2006. This event will bring together representatives from NGOs, the business sector, academia and media to review Asia-Europe relations since the inauguration of ASEM in 1996.

Outside the ASEM framework, civil society groups also meet at the Asia-Europe People's Forum, which is held every two years alongside the ASEM Summits. The European Parliament has initiated contacts with parliaments in ASEM countries through the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP). The latest ASEP meeting was held in Helsinki in May 2006.



*The Fourth Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP) Meeting, 4-5 May 2006, Helsinki. Photograph: Vesa Lindqvist. Copyright Eduskunta 2006*

## 4. What are ASEM's achievements?

### A dialogue facilitator

ASEM potentially covers all issues of common interest to Asia and Europe. It has provided a dialogue platform to address major international and regional developments. ASEM has notably contributed to improving the international security environment, managing globalisation and its effects, enhancing interregional and international business frameworks, and informing our Asian partners of the increasing international role of the euro. ASEM has also served as a cultural dialogue facilitator and helped to increase mutual understanding through people-to-people contacts.

### A policy-making laboratory

ASEM is a policy-making laboratory. By promoting an open and inclusive dialogue, ASEM has allowed its participants to develop and test new ideas for future policy-making. By creating a process of consultation, ASEM has helped to streamline the international agenda. As a forum promoting an open and informal dialogue, ASEM provides an opportunity to work towards common positions prior to official multilateral negotiations.

ASEM also creates opportunities for exchanging experiences and sharing knowledge. It facilitates knowledge transfer to Asian countries which have shown interest in the European integration process. In the meantime, European partners can gain a better understanding of regional developments in Asia and Asia's own regional integration process.

### Managing growing Asia-Europe relations

ASEM is not a substitute for other bilateral or multilateral fora involving Asia and Europe, but it facilitates and stimulates progress in other settings. ASEM enhances synergies in Asia-Europe relations and complements other levels of relations between the two regions. For example, the ASEM Summits offer excellent opportunities for bilateral meetings to take place in parallel. The first Summit between the EU and China took place before the opening of the ASEM 2 Summit. EU-China and EU-Republic of Korea Summits are planned to be held in Helsinki in September 2006 before the ASEM 6 Summit.

## Building a stronger partnership between Asia and Europe

The first decade of the ASEM partnership has resulted in a broader political dialogue, stronger economic relations, more extensive cultural exchanges and a better awareness of the cross-dimensional issues affecting both regions, and has given rise to nearly one hundred collaborative initiatives. ASEM has also helped Asia and Europe to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the other region. This process has taken place at a time when ASEM embraced new members in both Asia and Europe, expanding the geographical coverage of the strengthened partnership.



## 5. ASEM 6

The ASEM 6 Summit to be held in Helsinki on 10-11 September 2006 will mark the tenth anniversary of the dialogue and cooperation process that started with the landmark inaugural meeting in Bangkok. It provides an excellent opportunity to review the many achievements of ASEM in the past decade and consider how its work should proceed in the future.



*Helsinki, Finland.*

*Source: City of Helsinki Picture Bank by Ilmakuva Vallas Oy.*

The overarching theme of the Summit will be "10 Years of ASEM: Global Challenges - Joint Responses", reflecting a commitment to a collective approach to tackling the many challenges that exist in our rapidly-changing world.

The agenda of the ASEM 6 Summit has been prepared among the 39 partners. The broad political, economic and socio-cultural themes of the ASEM 6 Summit have been set at previous Summits and ministerial meetings.

The deliberations in the Summit will revolve around topical issues on the international agenda. Such topics include, among others, support for the multilateral 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 commitment to resume as soon as possible the WTO Doha Development Agenda talks suspended in July 2006, questions relating to globalisation, competitiveness and structural changes in the global economy, intercultural dialogue as a means to promote mutual understanding..

The tenth anniversary of ASEM will be highlighted in a special opening session of the Summit and in various ASEM-related events taking place in Helsinki before and during the Summit.



*The Helsinki Fair Centre, venue of the ASEM 6 Summit.  
Photo: Finnish Prime Minister's Office.  
Photographer: The Finnish Fair Corporation.*



## 6. The future of ASEM

The first ASEM decade has confirmed the belief that Asia and Europe need each other in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world. The Helsinki Summit will not only provide the Leaders with a forum to reflect on ASEM's achievements, but also offer a window of opportunity to discuss the future direction of the process and clearly express the resolve to take the process forward.

The following principles are expected to guide ASEM's work in the coming period:

- Recognition of the ever-growing interdependence between Asia and Europe, and of ASEM's role as a prime point of convergence between the two regions.
- A strong commitment to promoting multilateralism and a fair, just and rule-based international order, with the UN playing the central role, and taking into account the combined weight of Asia and Europe.
- A continued focus on free and open dialogue, to be complemented by focused actions and result-oriented initiatives in key areas where ASEM can add value to cooperation at the bilateral, sub-regional and multilateral levels.
- Keeping the ASEM process informal, while reinforcing institutional mechanisms in order to facilitate more effective coordination and enhance the sustainability of the process, thereby forging a stronger partnership.

Building on a solid foundation, ASEM will enter its second decade with a strengthened role and a renewed capacity to adapt to a changing global environment.

## Useful Websites

ASEM 6 Summit  
(<http://www.asem6.fi/>)

ASEM on EUROPA, portal site of the European Union  
([http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external\\_relations/asem/intro/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/asem/intro/index.htm))

Asia–Europe Foundation (ASEF)  
(<http://www.asef.org/>)

ASEM Infoboard  
(<http://www.aseminfoboard.org/>)

ASEM DUO  
(<http://www.aseduo.org/>)

Asia–Europe People’s Forum  
(<http://www.aepf.net/>)

The Tenth Asia–Europe Business Forum, 10-11 September 2006, Helsinki  
(<http://www.aebf10.org/>)

The Fourth Asia–Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting, 4-5 May 2006, Helsinki  
(<http://www.asep4.fi/>)

### ***Some of the programmes organised/co-organised/supported by ASEF:***

Asia-Europe Environment Forum (<http://www.env.asef.org/>)

Cultures and Civilisations Dialogue Programme (<http://www.civdialogue.asef.org/>)

Asia Europe Museum Network (<http://www.asemus.org/>)

Synergy Europe-Asia in the field of cinema (<http://sea-images.asef.org/>)

Asia Europe Workshop Series (<http://www.aews.asef.org/>)

Cultural Exchange between Asia and Europe (<http://www.culture-asef.org/>)

European Studies in Asia (<http://www.esia.asef.org/>)

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