



eurocham



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between the European Business Organisations in ASEAN countries on regional collaboration

The European Business Organisations in ASEAN countries, including:

- European Business Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia,
- EU-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
- European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines,
- European Chamber of Commerce, Singapore,
- Thai-European Business Association,
- European Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam,

hereafter referred to as ASEAN EBOs;

Considering the importance of the ASEAN region as a market for European companies to expand abroad as well as a base for many EU companies for production and trading with the rest of the world;

Considering that, though there is a large European business community in South East Asia, European business representation could be improved, currently placing European businesses at a comparative disadvantage vis-à-vis other economic blocs;

Desirous of adding a regional dimension to the ASEAN EBOs and strengthening their collaboration to provide more and better services to their members, including in the view of the establishment of EU Free Trade Agreements with ASEAN countries;

Have reached the following understanding:

1. The ASEAN EBOs will create a platform for collaboration between their respective EBOs known as the “EU-ASEAN Business Council” (hereafter referred to as the “Council”).
2. The Council provides a platform for its members to advocate European business interests in ASEAN and can act as an interface for institutions in the EU and ASEAN to engage in a dialogue with EU businesses in the region, including in the framework of the EU ASEAN Business Summits.
3. In its aim to promote the European business community in ASEAN, in collaboration with EU- and ASEAN-based partners and institutions, the Council provides a pan-ASEAN framework to share knowledge, resources and events with all stakeholders, including through sectoral working groups.
4. The regional collaboration is based on the following collective understanding:
  - a. The regional network will be established within the existing governance and operational structures, represented by the Chairman/President and Chief Executive of each ASEAN EBO. Decisions will be based on consensus until the ASEAN EBOs have elaborated a set of rules for the governance of their network. The network will be supported by a virtual desk in each ASEAN EBO, one of which takes the role of a coordinating secretariat, which rotates among all ASEAN EBOs.
  - b. Each ASEAN EBO keeps full ownership on its respective membership base. Access to the services offered by the network takes place through each individual EBO. Access to selected services the network offers may be linked to specific senior membership categories, such as for the Council.
  - c. Activities will be offered at local level by each individual EBO as well as at regional level coordinated among EBOs. Each ASEAN EBO leads any activities and services that concern its respective country.

5. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding will affect the rights and commitments that each ASEAN EBO has under its Constitution and local administration, nor create any legal obligations, nor exclusivity amongst ASEAN EBOs.
  
6. This Memorandum of Understanding is drawn up in six originals by all parties in the English language.

Done in Jakarta on 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2011



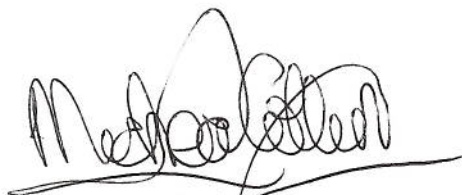
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