



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Department of Information

Press Release

On the Outcomes of the 22<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM)

21 January 2019, Brussels, Belgium

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At the invitation of H.E. Ms. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security, and Vice President of the European Commission, His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, led a Cambodian delegation to attend the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (22<sup>nd</sup> AEMM) on 21 January 2019 in Brussels, Belgium.

The AEMM is an important platform for Foreign Ministers from all ASEAN Member States and the EU to deliberate on common issues for mutually beneficial cooperation with a view to further strengthen and deepen ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations. During the 22<sup>nd</sup> AEMM, beside reviewing the progress of its cooperation, the Ministers discussed on future directions of ASEAN-EU cooperation and also exchanges views on global pressing issues, including climate change, connectivity, combatting terrorism, maritime security, migration and trade which are of common concerns for both regions and the world at large. The Ministers also reaffirmed the significant role played by ASEAN and the European Union in shaping the political, socio-economic, and security agenda for both regions and globally.

During the meeting the Ministers also adopted the Joint Statement of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting, in which both ASEAN and the EU agreed in principle to upgrade the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Partnership to a Strategic Partnership, subject to details and timing to be worked out.

The EU reaffirmed their support for ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture, and for ASEAN's role as a driving force in promoting dialogue, moderation, cooperation for peace, security, stability, prosperity, and the rule of law in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.





To respond on behalf of ASEAN on the connectivity agenda, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister, expressed his appreciation for EU's contribution and support for ASEAN connectivity, in particular the EU's commitment to enhance cooperation on ASEAN connectivity agenda, both in hard and soft infrastructure, in particular its support in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC) through various thematic dialogue and the EU-ASEAN cooperation that aim to increase infrastructure development in ASEAN. His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister underlined that the quality of physical infrastructure is one of the factors that makes an important contribution to the socio-economic development. He also further stressed the importance of MPAC 2025, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Indo-Pacific Strategies and Concept, the ACMECS Master Plan and GMS Regional Investment Framework, by leveraging their complementarities and synergies. His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister recognized the importance to intensify efforts between ASEAN and the EU to address the global slow growth, especially through the comprehensive region-to-region FTAs (ASEAN-EU FTA), which will expand the critical consumers mass and market access, increase growth and development for both regions.

The Ministers also exchanged views on regional and international issues including counter-terrorism and extremist violence, and Korean Peninsula.

On the Korean Peninsula, the Ministers expressed their commitment to supporting a comprehensive solution through diplomacy and fully implementing the UNSC resolutions. The Ministers also underlined that the development of inter-Korean relations, the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of, and the peace regime on the Korean Peninsula are important for peace, security and stability in East Asia and the entire world. They also welcomed the efforts of the Republic of Korea and other partners' diplomatic initiatives to achieve these objectives.

On the sidelines of the 22nd ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister also separately met with H.E. Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of Belgium, H.E. Mrs. Cecilia Malmstrom, Trade Commissioner of the European Union and H.E Mr. Antonio Lopez-Isturiz, Member of the European Parliament from Spain and Secretary-General of the European People's Party

Phnom Penh, 24 January 2019

