

Upcoming Meetings

The 12th ASEM Summit will be hosted by the EU and held in Brussels, Belgium, on 18-19 October 2018.

The Summit will be chaired by the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk. Jean Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission will also take part, accompanied by Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

In 2018, the following ASEM Ministerial Meetings are foreseen:

Cultural Ministers, 1-2 March 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria

Finance Ministers, 26 April 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria

The **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** is a unique, informal platform for dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe on the big challenges of a fast-changing world, such as connectivity, trade and investment, climate change, but also broad security challenges such as counter-terrorism, migration, maritime security and cyber issues. Bringing together 53 partners from across Europe and Asia, ASEM is the main multilateral platform linking Europe and Asia with significant global weight: ASEM partners represent 60% of global GDP, 60% of global population and 60% of global trade. For more than 20 years, ASEM has been the most comprehensive partnership between Asia and Europe, crossing hands across continents.

ASEM's main purpose is to provide a platform to foster political dialogue, strengthen economic cooperation and tackle global challenges together. In many respects, recent developments in the international landscape have increased the value of ASEM as a key building block for an open, cooperative and rules-based international system.

A unique multilateral, inter-regional framework to increase awareness, policy exchange and tangible cooperation between Asia and Europe.

An open and informal partnership working for peace, security, human rights and prosperity for all.

ASEM is conducted as an informal and flexible process on the basis of equal partnership, mutual respect and mutual benefit. It aims to promote the exchange of ideas and best practices and thus act as a breeding ground for new policy ideas. In short, ASEM is the most influential comprehensive partnership between Asia and Europe, boosting connectivity in all its dimensions between the two regions.

The ASEM Family ASEM Partners

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF),

based in Singapore, is an international, not-for-profit foundation, and acts as the only permanent Institution of ASEM. ASEF is charged with promoting cultural, intellectual and people-to-people contacts between the two regions.

The Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP) promotes

cooperation between parliaments in Europe and Asia and offers parliamentarians an opportunity to influence the ASEM process.

The Asia-Europe Peoples' Forum (AEPF) is the 'grass roots' level of

ASEM and serves as an interregional network of civil society and societal movements across Asia and Europe.

The Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF) aims to enhance business-

to-business dialogue and cooperation between the two regions and to provide opportunity for interaction between business and political leaders.

The initial ASEM partnership which was inaugurated in Bangkok, Thailand on 1-2 March 1996 consisted of just 15 EU member states and 7 ASEAN member states plus China, Japan, Korea and the European Commission.

Today ASEM comprises 51 partner countries and two institutional partners: the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat.

Funding to support the EU's engagement in ASEM comes from the European Union's Partnership Instrument (PI), under which the EU cooperates with partners around the world to advance the Union's strategic interests and tackle global challenges. The PI is funding activities that carry the EU's agendas with partner countries forward, translating political commitments into concrete measures. Specific PI funding is made available to ASEM through the project "Advancing the EU's role in multilateral fora in Asia", which aims to promote EU security, political and economic interests by strengthening the EU's engagement in different multilateral fora in Asia. These objectives are pursued by sensitising ASEAN, ASEM and ARF to EU goals and contributions to multilateral fora in Asia.



This leaflet was produced by the European Union's Partnership Instrument.

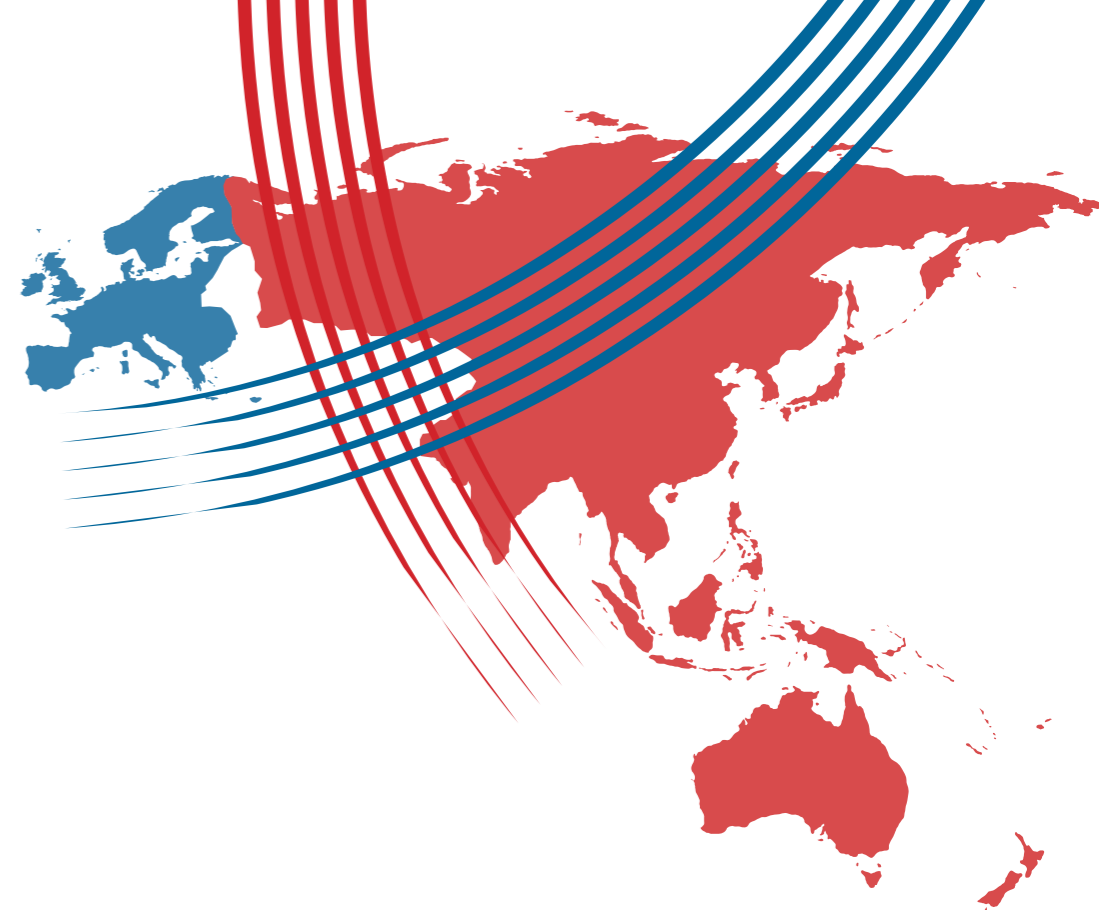


Information about ASEM

The ASEM InfoBoard is a one-stop-shop for everything about ASEM, gathering information about ASEM, details on all its events and meetings, as well as key partnership documents.

www.aseminfoboard.org

<http://eeas.europa.eu/asem>



ASEM is a unique, informal platform for dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe



Asia-Europe Meeting

The three pillars of ASEM

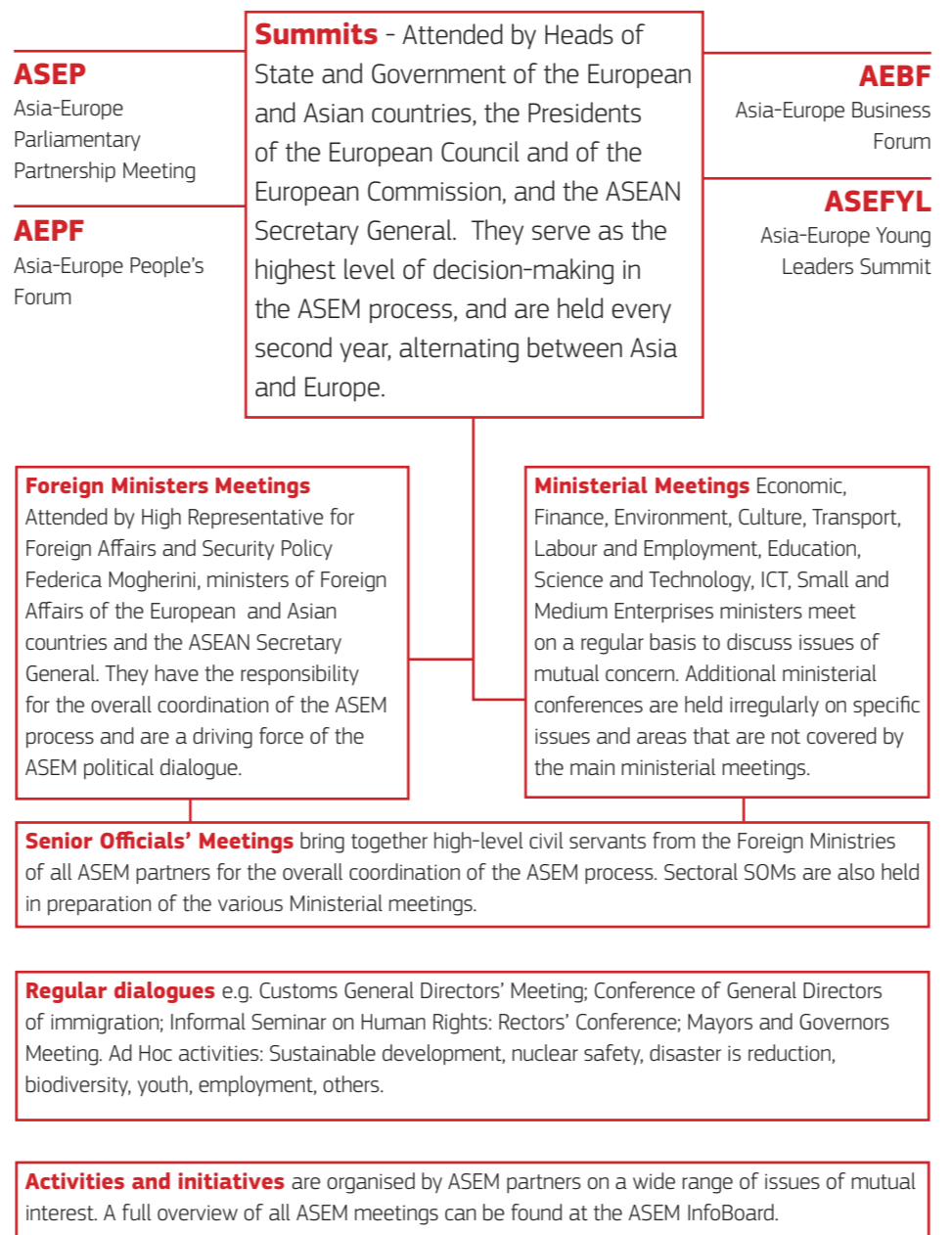
Political important issues and challenges affecting both continents, including the fight against terrorism, common responses to international security threats, global environmental issues, management of migratory flows, human rights, welfare of women and children, etc.	Economic and Financial promoting growth and employment, enhancing cooperation on global financial issues, dialogue in priority industrial sectors, fostering connectivity between the two regions, etc.	Social and Cultural a wide range of enhanced contacts and dialogue between the two regions on topics such as education, social protection and employment, and co-operation on the protection of cultural heritage.
---	---	--

In a globalised world, working together across these three pillars makes ASEM an important platform for dialogue and communication, and for promoting a common vision of peace, prosperity and sustainable development in both regions.



How ASEM works

ASEM works through meetings and activities organised at different levels.



ASEM is...

- Informal** ASEM provides an open forum for policy makers and officials to discuss any political, economic or socio-cultural issues of common interest, complementing the work already being carried out in bilateral and multilateral fora.
- An equal partnership** ASEM offers a platform to enhance understanding and awareness amongst its partners through dialogue and cooperation on topics of mutual interest on the basis of equal partnership, mutual respect and benefit.
- Open and evolutionary** ASEM goes with the times, both in terms of issues addressed and with regard to membership.
- Multi-dimensional** ASEM covers the full spectrum of relations between the two regions and devotes equal weight to political, economic and socio-cultural dimensions.
- High-level and people-focused** ASEM provides a platform for meetings not only of Heads of State and Government, ministers and senior officials, but also puts a strong focus on fostering people-to-people contacts among all in the regions, including experts, civil society representatives and youth.

Priority themes

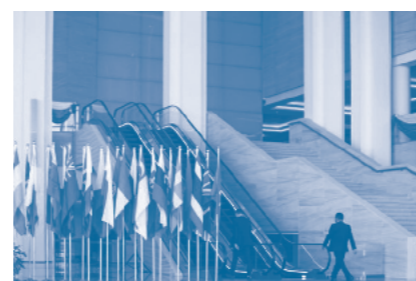
- ASEM covers potentially all topics of common interest to Asia and Europe:
- Global and regional challenges of common concern
 - Globalisation, competitiveness and structural changes in the global economy including finance, labour issues, education and human resource development
 - Connectivity: infrastructure and people-to-people links between the two regions
 - Two-way trade and investment, business-to-business dialogue and cooperation in priority industrial sectors
 - Sustainable development
 - Climate change
 - Environmental protection, water, energy and food security
 - Intercultural dialogue
 - Human rights
 - Non-proliferation, counterterrorism and cyber-security
 - Migration
 - Culture and education
 - Dialogue among parliaments and civil society

ASEM has no secretariat. Foreign ministers and their senior officials have an overall coordinating role within the ASEM process. They are assisted by an informal group of coordinators (two from the Asian side - representing the ASEAN and non-ASEAN (NESA) groups - and two from the European side - the European External Action Service (EEAS) as the permanent coordinator and the rotating EU Presidency).



1994 Singapore and France propose that an EU-Asia summit meeting be held, to consider how to build a new partnership between the two regions.

1996 The first ASEM Summit is held in Bangkok in March 1996, with 15 EU member states and 10 Asian countries participating, as well as the European Commission. Since then, the ASEM family has continued to grow through successive rounds of enlargement to 53 ASEM Partners today.



2006 ASEM celebrates its 10th anniversary by adopting the 'Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM', reasserting ASEM's role as a catalyst in EU-Asia relations.

2016 ASEM marks its 20th anniversary Summit in Mongolia, looking forward to the challenges of the 21st century.

2018 On 18-19 October 2018, the EU hosts the 12th ASEM Summit under the title 'Global Partners for Global Challenges' aiming to chart a common response to pressing global ages.