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THE ASIA-EUROPE MEETING - ASEM

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Abstract:

Summits of the Countries in Asia and Europe (The Asia-Europe Meeting - ASEM) is a year informal process of Dialogue and Cooperation Bringing together the 28 member states of the European Union (EU), two Countries that has not EU members, the Union Europe itself, with 21 Asian Countries, together with the secretariat of the Association of South East Asian Cooperation (ASEAN). Level Dialogue ASEM has three pillars: political, economic and cultural, with the pursuit of Objectives Defining the relations between the two continental Regions of the world in the spirit of mutual respect and Equality to all our partners involved action. At summit meetings held Attended (in alphabetical order): Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Korea, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Russian Federation, Philippines, Finland, France Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, United Kingdom, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Romania, the ASEAN Secretariat, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Hungary, the European Union and Vietnam. Coordinators for Asia is Malaysia and Mongolia, and for Europe - European External Action Service and the country holding the rotating presidency of the Union.

Key words: *Asia, Europe, summit, meeting*

1. Introduction

Asia-Europe summit meetings are forums for intergovernmental policy dialogue and cooperation on the bases, the strengthening of economic cooperation and promote mutual collaboration in areas of mutual interest. The process of dialogue and cooperation is based on equally reciprocal partnerships and arrangements, ASEM meetings being called upon to facilitate and stimulate progress in other areas of bilateral and multilateral cooperation of mutual Asia-Europe relations. The features cooperation in accordance with ASEM process include: Informality - the process begins with open forums bringing together politicians and officials, discussing political, economic and sociocultural of common interest. In this way, it is made duplicates activities already developed by existing bilateral or multilateral forum; b) multi-dimensionality - covering the full spectrum of relations between the two regions linked to political, economic and socio-cultural; c) emphasis on equal partnership relations in favor of a bi or multilateral best general process of dialogue and cooperation based on respect and mutual benefit; d) focusing dual, high-level, but also on the nation involved, through platforms for meetings with heads of state or government, ministers and

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other officials, with a growing emphasis on contacts that encourage relationships between all sectors regions or states involved.

Traditionally, each summit is conducted under strict confidentiality. At the summit was participate only the heads of delegations national and translators, thus enabling a very open dialogue about the most pressing global issues.

2. The meeting

2.1. The history of the first five meetings of ASEM

The first summit was held in Bangkok (Thailand) in March 1996; At this summit was attended by presidents of the 15 EU Member States, 7 Asian ASEAN member countries, plus representatives from the leading of China, Korea's, Japan and the European Union. Then, the President of the Republic of Korea proposed a vision of the Europe-Asia Peak Group, which contained postulates, methods and ways of action of this summit. Summits of ASEM members should contribute to developing better understanding between Asian and European countries and vice versa, to propose ways to advance their future together.

The second summit was held in London (UK), 3-4 April 1998. It was attended by heads of state of 10 Asian countries and 15 European countries, European Commission President European advise President and Prime Minister of Great Britain; Summit's theme was "Strengthening the partnership between Europe and Asia" and was reviewed the progress since the first meeting. The aspects regarding the Asian financial crisis have dominated at that time the discussions of the participants and the future cooperation between the participating countries.

The third ASEM summit was held in Seoul (in South Correa) from 20 to 21 October 2000.

The fourth summit was held in Copenhagen (Denmark), 20-22 September 2002.

The first extension of the framework of states action at ASEM was at **the fifth summit** which was held on 8-9 October 2004 to Hanoi (Vietnam) where attended also the 10 new EU Member States (Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary) and three new ASEAN member countries: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, which officially became part of the ASEM process.

2.2. The last five meetings of ASEM

Sixth ASEM summit meeting was held in Helsinki (Finland), between 10 and 11 September 2006. The general theme of the Summit was "10 years of ASEM: Global Challenges Joint Responses", reflecting the common objectives and developments worldwide.

Priorities of the Helsinki Summit were: 1. Support for multilateral international system; 2. Addressing security threats (including global health threats such as avian flu); 3. Energy security and climate change; 4. Support for the conclusion of negotiations on the WTO / DDA; 5. Globalization, competitiveness and structural changes in the global economy; 6. Dialogue intercultural.

Ten years of ASEM cooperation was also one of the transversal themes of the meeting. Summit presented proposals to further develop ASEM cooperation and adoption of the Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM. The report Finnish-Japanese joint research was titled: ASEM in the tenth year - Looking back, looking ahead, a precondition for discussions and decisions on the future of the process.

Along with India, Pakistan, Mongolia and the ASEAN Secretariat, Romania and Bulgaria were invited to join the ASEM process after the ASEM Summit in Helsinki (10 to 11 September 2006). From 1 January 2007, Romania has participated in meetings organized

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under the three pillars of ASEM at different levels of representation of governmental and civil society.

Strictly formal admission of our country took place in July ASEM Summit (Beijing 24-25 October 2008). Romania's active involvement in the process marks ASEM's interest to boost bi-regional dialogue between Asia and Europe and creates new opportunities for promoting bilateral relations with traditional partners in the region.

The seventh ASEM summit meeting was held in Beijing (China) 24-25 October 2008 marked the entry of six new members in the organization: Bulgaria, India, Mongolia, Pakistan, Romania and the ASEAN Secretariat, resulting in a total of 45 partners, members in ASEM. At this summit was attended by heads of state and government from 16 Asian countries and 27 European nations, European Commission President and the Secretary General of the ASEAN Secretariat, the first gathering of leaders from 45 countries, ASEM partners, in the second round extension 2006. The meeting was chaired by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

The general theme of the summit was "Vision and Action: Towards a win-win solution" and was held on the background of the global financial crisis, and other pressing issues such as energy shortcoming, food and natural disasters. This meeting of leaders representing more than half the world's population was submitted by 1,800 reporters from 51 countries around the world who were present in Beijing to report live from the summit.

The eighth ASEM summit meeting was held in the Royal Palace of Brussels (Belgium), 4-5 October 2010. On this occasion were received within organization three new Member States: Australia, New Zealand and the Russian Federation, bringing to 48 the number of Member States. The theme of ASEM 8, "Quality of life - towards greater prosperity and dignity for all citizens", had as main topics of common interest: governmental efficiency of the economic and financial crisis, sustainable development, global issues and regional, dialogue between civilizations, the visibility and ASEM future.

Like of any summit, key leaders said what was in the interest of the states they represented "ASEM can become an arena for close energy strategies of its members and the starting point for making the most important investment projects in Eurasia" Sergei Lavrov said. European leaders "reaffirmed their commitment to create new reform projects in the area of financial regulation and supervision" and established "to create a structural reform while making a reduction of excessive public deficits," said Herman van Rompuy. Separately, the Summit EU - China has not ended the dispute between the bloc and Beijing authorities on artificial undervaluation of the Chinese currency. At the end of the debate, European Council President Herman van Rompuy and European Commission President José Manuel Barroso said that they did further pressure on the government led by Wen Jiabao for Yuan appreciation. And Washington has strongly urged China to allow Yuan appreciation, whose course dollar fell against the euro and favors Chinese exports to USA and EU.

At the Summit was taken in discussion also the human rights, an domain in which Premier Wen rejected criticism by Europeans. "They should stop to put pressure on the Chinese authorities", said the Prime Minister of China. Then European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso stressed that summits like this are important for Europe and Asia because they represent the framework in which to analyze "how globalization can be better utilized for the benefit of European citizens and Asians."

The summit was ended with the Brussels Declaration on "global economic governance more effective", which refers to the need to reform the IMF, while the emerging and developing have asked for a better representation on the Board of Directors of court international. "This process should take into account the realities of today's world, the changes taking place and strong growth in emerging economies and those in countries'

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development, said at the press conference that followed the meeting, European Council President Herman van Rompuy.

The 9th Summit meeting of Heads of State and Government of the European and Asian states was held at 05-06 November 2012 in Vientiane (Laos People's Republic and Democratic), the country with over 6 million inhabitants, under communist rule from 1975 without economic infrastructure, but which was increased its reforms to be accepted into the World Trade Organization. On this occasion were received within organization the three countries - Bangladesh, Switzerland and Norway - which increased the number of partners to 51 on ASEM. European and Asian leaders, participants of this summit dominated by the consequences of the debt crisis, have committed to fight together against the economic crisis and rejected any protectionist measure. The year before, EU trade with the Asian countries which are part of the Asia-Europe forum climbed to 862 billion euros, of which 532 billion corresponded to imports of Asian products.

At the summit, the European Union said that maintain the debt crisis under control. The European delegation had the objective to deny the collapse of the Eurozone and to ensure that Asia will participate in efforts increase. Europeans also wanted to remember some rules of international trade. Ex-President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy has invited the officials to remain "faithful to open economies and world trade rules", saying that trade is one of the keys to global growth. "It remains still enormous potential to exploit in our bilateral trade. But to promote trade, the basis is not only regarding fostering domestic demand but also avoiding protectionism. We trust that our Asian partners will remain faithful to open economies and global trade rules recognized "said Herman Van Rompuy.

"The worst thing is the adoption of protectionist measures," said Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Garcia Margallo, who pleaded to "sign as soon as possible trade agreement between the two parties." "There is a commitment to expand trade and green technology to combat protectionism," confirmed Prime Minister of Malaysia, Najib Razak, who expressed satisfaction that ASEM leaders have said very clearly that „ I am against any form of protectionism ". "We are modest enough to do not think that, we will be alone, a global growth engine. We are part of a larger system," he said on this occasion the Indonesian foreign minister, Marty Natalegawa. It has also expressed satisfaction with the "resilience" of which showed Asian economies in recent months. Europe "must look to Asia for a better economic activity," suggested the secretary of state Philippines, Albert del Rosario. "There is an opportunity here for both sides," he explained.

The tenth summit meeting of ASEM member countries was held in Milan, 16-17 October 2014. The theme of the summit was "partnership is responsible for growth and security" and reflected widening the goals of EU-Asia. The meeting provided a crucial opportunity to send a strong message of Europe's commitment to Asia: 1. Responsibility - both Europe and Asia should act responsibly, respecting the common commitment of their environmental protection, social dialogue, poverty eradication, promotion and protection of human rights, etc. 2. Partnership - ASEM moving increasingly more towards a partnership based on a broader approach on common global and regional challenges; 3. Sustainable Growth - there is a common interest in strengthening economies and further structural reforms in Europe and Asia for economic support; joint commitment to strengthen mutual trade and investment; 4. Security - there is no growth or development without security more broadly - maritime security, non-traditional security, social security, food security, nuclear safety, etc. The EU underlines the need to be perceived as a constructive and reliable player in the evolution of the regional security architecture.

This summit began by acceptance of two new countries in ASEM: Croatia and Kazakhstan. This positive start was followed by substantial discussions on major issues emerged

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recently. They were examined achievements and challenges in three key areas of cooperation: economic, political and socio-cultural.

The key concept and the thread that united throughout the meeting was the discussion connectivity. It was highlighted as a condition of joint economic prosperity and growth free movement of goods, investment, information and people. The need to improve transport links was highlighted in particular; Common commercial relations should become stronger and to improve infrastructure linking the countries. Also in this 21st century, digital connectivity is another key area for trade and for every area of future development.

Various initiatives are underway in these areas must be pursued further and ensure mutually reinforcing. A prosperous economy in Asia will contribute to a healthy European economy and vice versa.

2. 1. Other conferences parallel with ASEM meetings

In parallel with ASEM summit meeting, participating countries agreed to hold ministerial meetings with different purposes: foreign affairs, economic affairs, environment, culture and education, at which to participate the respective ministers of ASEM countries. The most important meeting of culture ministers were organized: a) Beijing (China) on December 3, 2003; b) Paris (France) on June 6 to 7, 2005; c) Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) - 21 to 24 April 2008; d) Poznan (Poland) - 8 to 10 September 2012; e) Jakarta (Indonesia) - 18 to 19 September 2014; f) Rotterdam (Netherlands) - 10 to 12 October 2014. Meetings important environment ministers were organized: 1. Beijing (China) on January 17, 2002; 2. Lecce (Italy) - 12 to 13 October 2003; 3. Copenhagen (Denmark) - 23 to 26 April 2007; 4. Ulan Bator (Mongolia) - 22 to 23 May 2012. The most important finance ministers meetings were held: a) Kobe (Japan) - 13 to 14 January 2001; b) Copenhagen (Denmark) - 5 to 6 July 2002; c) Bali (Indonesia) - 5 to 6 July 2003; d) Tianjin (China) - 25 to 26 June 2005; e) Vienna (Austria) - 8 to 9 April 2006; f) Jeju (South Korea) on June 16, 2008; g) Madrid (Spain) - 17 to 18 April 2010; h) Bangkok (Thailand) - October 15, 2012; i) Milan (Italy) - 11 to 12 September 2014. The most important meetings of Foreign Ministers were held in: 1. Singapore - February 15, 1997; 2. Berlin (Germany) March 29, 1999; 3. Beijing (China) - 24 to 25 May 2001; 4. Madrid (Spain) - 6 to 7 June 2002; 5. Bali (Indonesia) - 23 to 24 July 2003; 6. Kildare (Ireland) - 17 to 18 April 2004; 7. Kyoto (Japan) - 6 to 7 May 2005; 8. Hamburg (Germany) - 28 to 29 May 2007; 9. Hanoi (Vietnam) - 25 to 26 May 2009; 10. Godollo (Hungary) - 6 to 7 June 2011; 11. New Delhi (India) - 11 to 12 November 2013. There were organized meetings of ministers of education - of which the most important were those of: a) Berlin (Germany) - 5 to 6 May 2008; b) Hanoi (Vietnam) - 14 to 15 May 2009; c) Copenhagen (Denmark) - 9 to 10 May 2011; d) Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) - 12 to 14 May 2013, and the Labour Ministers: 1. Postdam (Germany) - September 3, 2006; 2. Bali (Indonesia) - 13 to 15 October 2008; 3. Leiden (Netherlands) - 12 to 14 December 2010; 4. Hanoi (Vietnam) - 24 to 26 October 2012.

The 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM11) Summit was held, 15-16 July 2016, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The Summit is bringing together high-level delegation from 51 ASEM partners—30 European and 21 Asian countries, and two intergovernmental organizations—under an overall theme of “20 Years of ASEM: Partnership for the Future through Connectivity”. Presidents of Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Myanmar, South Korea, and Switzerland; Vice Presidents of India and Indonesia, 11 heads of state in total are attending this summit. 23 countries, including Japan, China, Finland, Luxembourg, Russia and the Netherlands, are attending the Summit on a head-of-government level, whereas the remaining 16 country attendees are Foreign Ministers. Additionally, the

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European Union is represented by H.E. Mr. Donald Tusk, the President of the European Council, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, the Secretary General of ASEAN.

The Leaders expressed their "*strong resolve to work together to energize ASEM, promote further connectivity, mutually beneficial partnership and cooperation between Asia and Europe*".

3. Conclusion

Summits above are part of the process of cooperation in many fields between the countries participating in ASEM of top conferences. The Forum of Peoples of Asia-Europe Business, The Forum Asia-Europe and Asia-Europe meetings with the partners are held in parallel with those meeting of heads of state and government. ASEM institution, the presidency Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) actually connects civil societies in Asia and Europe, connected to shared goals and objectives as discussed at the summits above.

Future development depends on the quality education that encourages innovation and employment thus contributing to economic growth. Cooperation in this key area is also an investment in the development of joint cross-fertilization of ideas and a better mutual understanding.

Exchange of views on global issues, the challenges should face together is very important. The summits which have held, on these issues, such as UN conferences on small island states and developing climate change, reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.

Also, in these summits has been reaffirmed their joint commitment to fight hunger and poverty worldwide. The European Union remains the largest donor and many Asian countries have been helped to lift its population from poverty. Joint action should be continued through a program of sustainable development significantly post-2015, and the fundamental values and human rights will be protected and promoted globally.

Since lately globally are many security threats were analyzed a wide range of these challenges: food and water security, energy security, traditional and non-traditional. Also there were exchanges of views on regional security, in particular on current areas of immediate instability. It reached a mutual agreement regarding international law and the need to resolve conflicts peacefully. Only through cooperation and mutual understanding can lead to true and lasting security.

Over the last meeting it was reviewed and how ASEM should develop itself and the framework for cooperation. It underlines the importance of the three for ASEM: parliamentary, business and civil society. They extend beyond the scope of ASEM governments by representatives of citizens and other private actors.

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