

Europe-Asia Relations: WHO? HOW? WHAT?

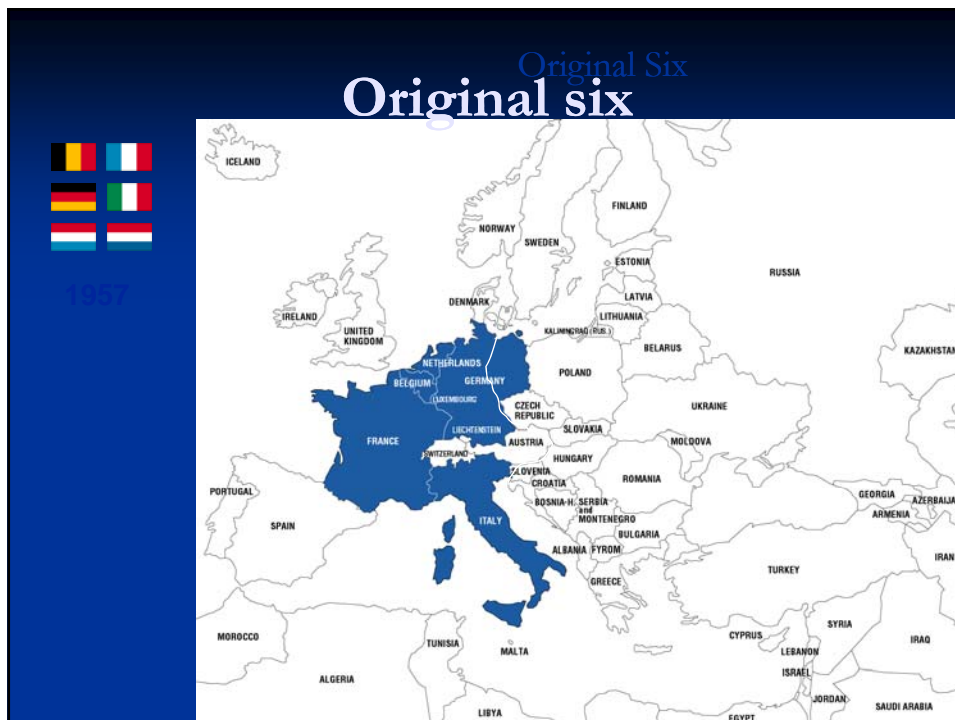
Dr David MILLIOT
Singapore, 6th February 2009

KEY FACTS ABOUT THE EU (1)

- EU-27
- Population: 492.9mio
- GDP (EUR): 10,917bn
- GDP per capita (EUR): 23,400
- Main trading partners: USA, China, Russia, Switzerland, Japan, ASEAN

THE EU is...

- The largest trade partner in the world
- The biggest donor in development aid (56% global flow)
- Leader in sustainable development, environmental awareness, climate change
- Promote multilateralism; extensive series of 700 global regional association and cooperation agreement with the rest of the world



European Construction

INITIAL STEPS

- 9 May 1950: declaration of Robert Schuman, French Minister of Foreign Affairs
- 18 April 1951: Treaty of Paris establishing the Community of Coal and Steel
- 27 March 1957: Six countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands) signed the Treaty of Rome establishing the European Economic Community (EEC)
- 1st July 1968: Customs Union is created between the six countries

European Construction (cont)

- 1973: Denmark, Ireland and the UK joined the EEC
- 1981: Greece joined
- 1986: Spain and Portugal joined
- 1992: Treaty of Maastricht
- 1993: Entry into force of Single Market
- 1995: Austria, Finland, Sweden joined

European Construction (cont)

- 1st May 1999: Entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam
- 1st January 2002: EURO !
- 1st February 2003: Entry into force of the Nice Treaty
- 1st May 2004: Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia joined
- 1st January 2007: Bulgaria and Romania joined
- December 2007: Signature of the Treaty of Lisbon

EU Map after 2004 and 2007 enlargements



THE ACTORS

EU Members + EU Institutions
ASEAN Members + ASEAN Secretariat
Other Individual Asian countries members
Private sector
Civil Society
YOU

THE CONTEXT

- “THE GREAT CRASH, 2008” (Roger Altman)
- More than ever, an interdependent world
- The relative strength of China
- A Geopolitical setback for the US ?
- Long term emerging trend: growing political and economic role of Asia in world affairs
- Europe: a pole of stability (e.g. Iceland) but further reforms needed

CHALLENGES

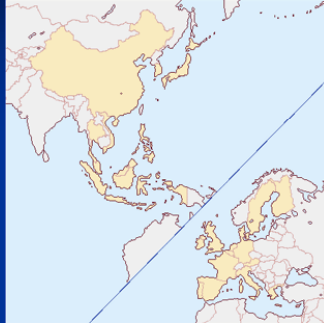
- Going beyond clichés: “Fortress Europe” vs “Exotic Asia”
- Different Values and Identities: the challenges of Education and Cross-Cultural Communication
- The Need for Political Drive

THE FRAMEWORK

- Trans-Regional Relations: ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM)
- Inter-Regional Relations: EU-ASEAN, EU-China, EU-Japan etc..
- Bilateral Relations: France-Singapore, Germany-South Korea etc..

ASEM Partners before 2004

Sweden
Finland
Denmark
Germany
Netherlands
Luxembourg
Belgium
France
United Kingdom
Ireland
Austria
Italy
Spain
Portugal
Greece
European Commission



**Membership
decided by
consensus**

Indonesia
Singapore
Malaysia
Brunei
Philippines
Thailand
Vietnam
China
South Korea
Japan

ASEM

THE 3 E of ASEM

- Equality (historic and symbolic)
- Exchange (political, trade/economic, culture)
- Equilibrium (Balance of Powers)

ASEM: AN HOLISTIC APPROACH BASED ON 3 PILLARS

- In contrast to the APEC process - which is essentially economic - ASEM holistically addresses the **political**, the **cultural**, and the **people-to-people as well as the economic** dimensions of Asia's relations and partnership with Europe.
- ASEM is an **ongoing dialogue process** based on **3 pillars: Political Pillar, Economic Pillar and Cultural/Intellectual Pillar**.
- Key-characteristics are : informal, multidimensional, open and evolutionary and based on equality.

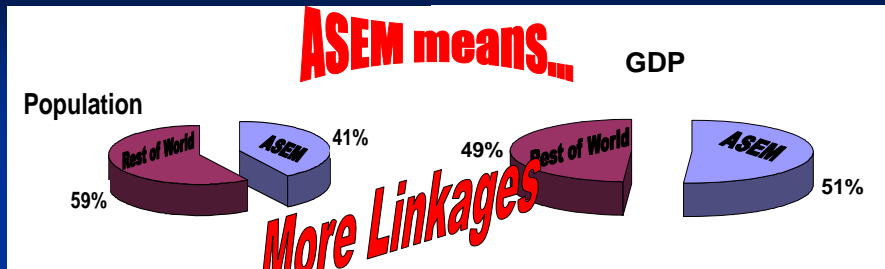
ASEM Enlargements

Czech Republic (2004)
Estonia (2004)
Cyprus (2004)
Latvia (2004)
Lithuania (2004)
Hungary (2004)
Malta (2004)
Poland (2004)
Slovenia (2004)
Slovakia (2004)
Bulgaria (2008)
Romania (2008)



Cambodia (2004)
Laos (2004)
Burma/Myanmar (2004)
India (2008)
Pakistan (2008)
Mongolia (2008)
ASEAN Secretariat (2008)

**Membership
decided by
consensus**



A Global Partnership for the XXI Century based on Equality, Consensus, Mutual Respect



Balancing the North America – Europe – East Asia Triangle

EU-ASEAN Initial Steps

- 1972: EC one of the first partner to establish dialogue with ASEAN; focus on market opening, system of stabilization of commodities.
- 1975: Creation of the ASEAN EC Joint Study Group; trade issues and study new areas of cooperation
- 1978: First Ministerial Meeting EC-ASEAN
- 1980: ASEAN-EC Cooperation Agreement; economic cooperation and development aid; trade; technical issues

EU-ASEAN TRADE: KEY FACTS

- EU-ASEAN Trade: 5% of total world trade (06)
- EU is ASEAN's second largest trading partner
- ASEAN is EU 5th largest trading partner (127bn EUR = JAPAN)
- EU largest investor in ASEAN
- Start of a negotiation of EU-ASEAN FTA in 2007

POLICIES

- EU policy priorities (i.a.): supporting regional stability, fight against terrorism, promoting human rights and good governance (rule of law), promoting trade, environment and climate change, dialogue and cooperation on trans-national issues.
- Key policy challenges: nuclear proliferation, migration, organised crime, piracy, corruption, environment/global warming

PROSPECTIVES

- Fostering a Euro-Asian Vision
- Soft Power, Smart Power
- EU domestic developments + Asia + US = A trilateral game
- Crisis (WEI JI): An opportunity ?
- Europe-Asia: a WIN-WIN Partnership

Treaty of Lisbon

- The Union will have legal personality
- Ensuring a better synergy between the various Foreign Policies
- One “Foreign Affairs” Minister / Vice-President of the Commission
- Creation of the Common External Action Service
- Member States can go further if they wish to

For more information

On

EU external relations...

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/world>

European Council on Foreign Relations

www.ecfr.eu

THANK YOU