



PRESS STATEMENT

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H.E. Barroso speaks on Asia-Europe Relations at the Asia-Europe Foundation

Singapore, 22 November 2007 - H.E. José Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Commission, paid a private visit to the Asia-Europe Foundation (AEF) after the conclusion of the EU-ASEAN Summit. While at AEF, President Barroso was briefed on the Foundation's activities which are aimed at promoting people-to-people, cultural and intellectual exchanges between Asia and Europe. In his remarks, President Barroso stressed the importance of Asia-Europe relations. He commended AEF for its contributions in broadening Asia-Europe ties, and reiterated the European Commission's commitment to the mission of the Foundation.

President Barroso was presented with the newly-released publication "The EU through the Eyes of Asia". This publication presents in-depth analysis of perceptions of the EU in Asia through media evaluation, public opinion surveys and elite interviews. It is an output of the inaugural project of AEF's European Studies in Asia (ESiA) network.

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The **Asia-Europe Foundation (AEF)** seeks to promote better mutual understanding and closer co-operation between the people of Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges. These exchanges include conferences, lecture tours, workshops, seminars and the use of web-based platforms. The major achievement of AEF is the establishment of permanent bi-regional networks focused on areas and issues that help to strengthen Asia-Europe relations.

Established in February 1997 by the partners of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)*, AEF is the only permanent physical institution of the ASEM process. AEF works in partnership with other public institutions and civil society actors to ensure its work is broad-based and balanced among the partner countries. <http://www.asef.org>

*The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal process of dialogue and co-operation. It brings together Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, The Netherlands, Pakistan, The Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. <http://www.aseminfoboard.org>