



**SIXTH ASIA-EUROPE
PARLIAMENTARY PARTNERSHIP MEETING (ASEP VI)**

Brussels, Belgium 26-27 September 2010

SUMMARY REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The 6th meeting of the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP VI) was held in Brussels, Belgium, on 26 and 27 September 2010.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. André Flahaut, Speaker of the Belgian House of Representatives and Mr. Willy Demeyer, 1st Deputy Speaker of the Senate.

The meeting was structured into 2 days. On Sunday 26 September, the day was devoted to the preparatory meeting of the Heads of Delegation, and to the drafting committee for the final declaration.

The preparatory meeting, chaired by Mr. Patrick Moriau, member of the House of Representatives, enabled the appointment of the Vice-Chairmen of the meeting, the co-Chairs and rapporteurs of the two panels, preparation of the meeting and the agenda of the plenary session on Monday 27 September. The Chair of the preparatory meeting pointed out that the final declaration would have to be adopted by a consensus of the delegations.

The British delegate asked for the theme of the Women's Parliament should be put on the agenda of Monday's plenary session.

N.B.: The purpose of the preparatory meeting is described in Article 10 of the ASEP rules of procedure.

The drafting committee then examined the draft final declaration incorporating the amendments put forward by the various delegations within a period of 4 weeks preceding the conference.

The themes of social progress and protection of the environment were developed at greater length by the drafting committee which made numerous amendments to the draft final declaration.

The draft was finalised for adoption by the plenary session on Monday 27 September 2010.

During the first plenary session, on Monday 27 September 2010, Mr. André Flahaut, Speaker of the Belgian House of Representatives, Mr. Steven Vanackere, Belgium's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Herman van Rompuy, President of the European Council, made speeches to the assembly.

Mr. Nan Zhengzhong, Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, addressed the meeting as the representative of the country which had organised the 5th meeting of the ASEP in Beijing in 2008.

The procedures and agenda of the plenary session were adopted unanimously.

The two key themes of the meeting were dealt with in two panels.

The first panel was devoted to the theme of "Effective Financial and Economic World Governance Structures"

The theme of the 2nd panel was sustainable development in its social, economic and environmental aspects.

The drafting committee met again briefly at the end of the panel discussions to agree on new amendments put forward by some delegations.

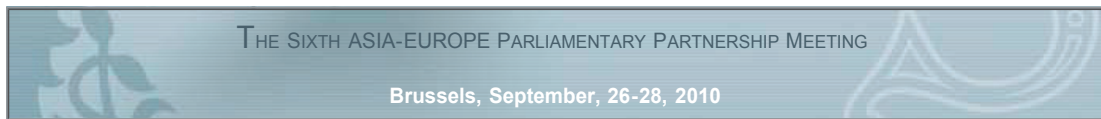
During the second plenary session which was held on Monday 27 September in the afternoon, the rapporteurs of panels 1 and 2 reported to the assembly on the discussions within each panel. A general debate followed.

The Chair of the drafting committee presented the final declaration submitted to the assembly, and commented briefly on the work of the final declaration drafting committee.

Some amendments to the text of the final declaration were still tabled during the plenary session. The text of the final declaration, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

The representative of the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic submitted the country's candidature to organise the 7th ASEP meeting (ASEP VII) in 2012.

You will find in this report a summary of the discussions in the plenary session and in the panels, the introduction speeches, the final declaration, the ASEP rules of procedure, the programme and the list of participants. The declaration is also available on the web site www.asep6.be.



Date last modified : 23/09/2010

PROGRAMME

Sunday, 26 September

Arrival in Brussels

15.00 Registration at the Federal Parliament (Main Entrance Hall, Place de la Nation 2, 1000 Brussels)

15.15 Departure from the hotels to Parliament by bus ⁽¹⁾

16.00 Preparatory meeting

Venue : Plenary Hall of the House of Representatives

Co-chairs :

- Mr. Patrick Moriau, Member of the House of representatives of Belgium;

- *adoption of the agenda*
- *election of meetings officers*
- *administrative arrangements*
- *organisation of proceedings*
- *other business*

17.00 End of the meeting. Bus transport to the hotels after the meeting.

17.00 Meeting of the Drafting Committee on the Declaration of the 6th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting

Venue : Meeting Room 5

Chair : Mr. Patrick Moriau, Member of the House of Representatives of Belgium

ca 18.00 End of the meeting. Bus transport to the hotels after the meeting.

19.15 Departure from hotels by bus ⁽¹⁾

19.30 Walking Buffet in the Palais des Beaux-Arts, hosted by Hon. Mr. Willy Demeyer, First Deputy Speaker of the Senate of Belgium and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Belgium Hon. Mr. André Flahaut, ASEP VI Co-Presidents.
Guided tour of the exhibition "A Passage to Asia. 25 Centuries of Exchange between Asia and Europe".

Rue Ravenstein 23 1000 Brussels, www.bozar.be

ca 22.00 Return to hotels by bus

Monday, 27 September

8.00 Registration at the Federal Parliament (Main Entrance Hall)

8.15	Departure from hotels to Parliament by bus
9.00	<p>Opening of the meeting and 1st plenary session</p> <p><u>Venue</u> : Plenary Hall of the House of Representatives <u>Chair</u> : Mr. André Flahaut, Speaker of the House of representatives</p> <p>- <i>Opening address by M. André Flahaut Speaker of the House of Representatives, ASEP VI Co-President</i> - <i>Address by Mr. Steven Vanackere, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium (ASEM 2010 Host)</i> - <i>Address by Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council</i> - <i>Address by Mr. Zhenzhong Nan, Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, host country of ASEP V</i> - <i>Adoption of the Agenda and procedural decisions of the 6th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting</i></p>
10.00	Group Picture of ASEP VI participants and Coffee Break
10.30	<p>Panel Discussion I</p> <p><u>Venue</u>: Plenary Hall of the House of representatives <u>Theme</u> : Effective Financial and Economic World Governance Structures</p> <p><u>Co-Chairs</u> : - Hon. Mr. Herman De Croo, Minister of State, member of the House of Representatives of Belgium - Hon. Mr. Sa Duk Hong, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea</p> <p><u>Presentation by keynote speakers</u> : - Mr. Jozef Kortleven, Advisor-General at the Belgian Ministry of Finance - Hon. Mr. Wei Li, Member of the Economic and Financial Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Rapporteur : Hon. Mrs Doris Sophia BRODI, Member of the Senate of Malaysia</p>
10.30	<p>Panel Discussion II</p> <p><u>Venue</u>: Salle des Congrès <u>Theme</u> : Sustainable development</p> <p><u>Co-Chairs</u> : - Hon. Mr. Mihály Balla, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of Hungary - Hon. Mr. Tetsuo Morimoto, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan</p> <p><u>Presentations by keynote speakers</u> : - Mr. Koos Richelle, Director-General of EuropeAid Co-operation Office (European Commission) - Hon. Mr. Tantowi Yahya, Member of the House of Representatives of Indonesia</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Rapporteur : Mr. Patrick Moriau, Member of the House of Representatives of Belgium</p>
13.00	Lunch (<u>Venue</u> : Reception Room of the Speaker of the Senate), hosted by Hon. Mr. Willy Demeyer, First Deputy Speaker of the Senate of Belgium, ASEP VI Co-President
13.15	<p>(if needed) Meeting of the Drafting Committee on the Declaration of the 6th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting</p> <p><u>Venue</u>: Meeting Room 5 <u>Chair</u>: Mr. Patrick Moriau, Member of the House of representatives</p>

14.30

Second Plenary Session

Venue : Plenary Hall of the House of Representatives

Chair : Hon. Mr. Willy Demeyer, First Deputy Speaker of the Senate of Belgium, ASEP VI Co-President

- *Report of Panel Discussion 1*
- *Report of Panel Discussion 2*
- *Discussion*
- *Introductory remarks by Chair of the Drafting Committee*
- *Adoption of the ASEP VI Declaration*

Closing of the Meeting

- *Address by representative of the host Parliament of ASEP VII*
- *Closing address by the First Deputy Speaker of the Senate of Belgium, Hon. Mr. Willy Demeyer.*

After the plenary session

Reception hosted by the Speaker of the House of representatives of Belgium, Hon. Mr. André Flahaut
Venue : Reading room of the House of representatives

Guided visit of the Parliament on demand

ca 20.00

Bus transport to the hotels after the reception

Tuesday, 28 September

A day tour to the historic city of Bruges, "*the Venice of the North*"

09.45

Departure by bus from the hotels ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ to Rue de Loxum

10.00

Transportation from Rue de Loxum/Loksumstraat to Bruges under escort.

11.30

Arrival in Bruges
Official welcome by Mr. Paul Breyne, Governor of the West Flanders Province

12.00

Lunch in the Governor's Palace

14.00

Guided tour of the historical centre of Bruges

15.00

Boat tour on the canals

15.30

Departure from Bruges to the hotels

17.00

Arrival at the hotel

(1) Participants staying at NH Arenberg Hotel : Bus will park in rue de Loxum/Loksumstraat, [see map](#)

(2) Participants wanting to visit Bruges and staying in other hotels than NH Arenberg Hotel, Royal Windsor Hotel Grand Place and Le Plaza Brussels, please gather at buses in rue de Loxum/Loksumstraat at 09.45, [see map](#)

ASEP VI (26 - 28/09/2010)

Monday 27/09/2010

Opening session

- ✦ **Mr. André Flahaut**, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chair of ASEP VI delivered his opening address officially declaring the ASEP VI Parliamentary Partnership meeting open.

Mr. Flahaut emphasised that European and Asian citizens must have the same rights and obligations in the fields of health, education, solidarity, local government, and on the essential role of women in our societies.

He also stressed the promising aspects of development of the trilateral cooperation model between European, Asian and African countries, based on a wish to share knowledge, cooperation, security and development of intelligent partnerships in every field. Parliaments have an important role to play in this respect by increasing interparliamentary contacts in particular, as these guarantee joint democratic evolution.

- ✦ **Mr. Steven Vanackere**, Belgian Foreign Affairs Minister then addressed the meeting. He emphasised the importance of the development of the Euro-Asian parliamentary partnership. He advocated the reinforcement of cooperation and dialogue to be able to finalise reforms in the banking sector and improve quality of life by taking up the challenge of sustainable development.

- ✦ **Mr. Herman van Rompuy**, President of the European Council, talked about the European Summit on 16 September, which had examined the means of reinforcing the synergies between the two continents, and identifying the strategic objectives to be pursued. A consensus was first reached on the free trade agreement with South Korea.

Economic support measures were taken to assist Pakistan in reconstructing the country after the earthquake.

The battle against piracy and the maintenance of security in the Indian Ocean constitute strategic objectives which should contribute to the recovery of the global economy. The G20 will have to prove its worth again during this period of economic recession.

Finally, President Van Rompuy expressed his pleasure that Australia, New Zealand and the Russian Federation would become new members of ASEM.

- ✦ **Mr. Nan Zhengzhong**, Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress reminded the meeting that his country had organised the 5th ASEP meeting in Beijing in 2008.

At the time, the global economy was having to contend with the consequences of the financial crisis. The aim was to evaluate the responsibilities of each government for emerging from the crisis.

The global economy had since recovered, but the foundations of the economic recovery were still fragile.

He stated that the choice of themes for the two panels was particularly judicious in the current context, because it would enable the definition of an effective framework for economic development and sustainable development.

First Plenary Session

The first plenary session got under way with procedural matters such as the adoption of the agenda of the meeting and the meeting procedures.

The agenda had been circulated to the participating parliaments 6 weeks in advance and the meeting procedures were approved in the preparatory meeting that took place on Sunday, 26 September 2010, under the chairmanship of Mr. Patrick Moriau, member of the Belgian House of Representatives.

Panel 1

Effective Financial and Economic World Governance Structures

Panel 1 was co-chaired by Mr. Herman The Croo, Minister of State and Honorary Speaker of the House of Representatives and by Mr. Sa Duk Hong, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

The rapporteur was Mrs Doris Sophia Brodi, Member of the Malaysian Senate. Mr. Jozef Kortleven, General Counsellor at the Belgian Finance Ministry gave a presentation, as panellist of panel 1, on the audit and the arrangements for global financial and economic governance after the period of economic and financial crisis experienced by the ASEM countries.

Mr. Kortleven emphasised that after the economic and financial crisis, the European Union and political leaders were faced with the necessity of strengthening good governance.

Previously, the G10 was the most important economic forum in the world. In economic terms, the objectives set by the G20, meeting in Pittsburgh and London, were reinforcement of the economic systems and a framework for sustainable growth. A series of preparatory meetings would lead up to the meeting of G20 Heads of State in Korea in November 2010.

In the context of the Basel Committee, concerning banking supervision and rules, new prudential rules were set for the global banking and financial system (Basel 3 Agreement). Henceforth, banks will have to hold more capital, and it will have to be of better quality. There will also be more requirements for liquidity, because the crisis revealed problems of banks' solvency. There will also be a better ratio between capital and assets for *leverage* (Use of financial instruments and recourse to borrowing to increase the potential return of an investment).

These provisions will be implemented gradually, so as not to nip the recovery in growth in the bud. A deadline of 2013 was set; the European Commission is working on a phased implementation.

The Basel Committee, which has been opened up to include members of the G20, to which the ASEM Member States belong, was able to produce international standards for the first time. The members of the ASEM will have to implement the Basel 3 standards, otherwise they run the risk of finding themselves in the same situation as with Basel 2, which certain States, such as the USA, delayed putting into practice.

Currently, there are major capital flows towards emerging economies which are part of ASEM. In some Asian countries, we find interest rates lower than can be found in some European countries. This is curious, because it would mean that Asian emerging markets now have a higher credit quality. It is essential that ASEM countries should also participate in the implementation of the Basel 3 standards.

The risk of banks failing needs to be compensated by setting up a strong macroprudential framework.

To do this, it would be desirable for ASEM countries also to develop overall financial oversight.

Mr. Kortleven pointed out that the 2nd theme on the agenda of the G20 meeting in Seoul would be the growth framework. Growth would be lower and pressure would continue to develop in the next few months. For almost three decades, the USA have been accumulating balance of payments deficits. There are also emerging economies which are recording sizeable surpluses. These surpluses are resulting in substantial growth in

foreign currency reserves, which could lead to potential difficulties because these reserves have to be stored somewhere. The question is in which currency they can be invested, and what the reaction of the financial markets will be.

The IMF has made some calculations based particularly on a scenario where G20 Member States would undertake to implement policies that are mutually compatible and mutually reinforcing. This process has been under way for nearly a year. The European Union will have to make major efforts in terms of structural adjustments. More flexible markets and more integrated European markets will be needed.

The IMF has increased its quotas. The face of the world has changed, and the role of the emerging economies needs to be re-evaluated. If important decisions are taken there, the attention to these questions will be intensified.

With regard to China, it has to be observed that it is taking all sorts of new measures to encourage domestic household consumption. China needs to show greater flexibility particularly with regard to exchange rates.

Mr. Kortleven referred in conclusion to the battle against climate change. The Copenhagen Summit had been a relative success in the sense that it has enabled the beginning of an awareness-increasing process. Difficulties remain in the various undertakings to deal with the increase in greenhouse gases, and the question of how to involve developing countries in the process of combating global warming. This issue would soon be raised at the Cancun Summit.

Mr. Li Wei, member of the economic and financial committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China then addressed the meeting as second panellist of panel 1.

The world economic and financial recovery did not prevent the continued existence of risks connected with the failure of the world economic system.

The various parliaments of the ASEM countries must play their oversight role in coordination with their governments. It was urgent to draft laws and adopt measures to stabilise the financial markets and prevent excessive speculation.

Therefore, it was necessary to promote financial reform based on an effective and transparent system, respect the principles of participation and tolerance when choosing leaders in emerging countries, and increase the oversight of the operation of rating agencies. It was important to fight against trade protectionism and strengthen international economic cooperation in order to facilitate the liberalisation of trade.

Mr. Li Wei said that he hoped and prayed for a just financial system allowing trade between equals.

There followed an exchange of views between the participants in panel 1.

Mrs. Park Young-Sun, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea stated that she was particularly interested in financial safety policies.

The financial crisis had its origins in the subprime mortgage crisis, but was reinforced by the imbalances between advanced and emerging economies. Conditions for access to IMF loans were tightly defined, which made them difficult for emerging countries to access, and in some cases, they collapsed due to lack of access to the fund.

The Republic of Korea had survived the crisis in 1998. Many countries were facing a problem of lack of foreign currency reserves. Based on its experience, Korea could provide help about how to manage a temporary financial crisis.

The IMF must offer more accessible assistance to countries experiencing temporary crises. A global system of financial safety nets that would stem the effects of a crisis would also be desirable and should include measures of such a nature as to offer more flexible support, such as a flexible line of credit and a precautionary line of credit in case of temporary lack of liquidities.

Korea was working in cooperation with the G20 and the IMF on reinforcing financial safety nets. It was probable that a discussion would take place on this subject at the forthcoming G20 Summit in Seoul in August 2010. Such a process would contribute to setting up a global system of financial and economic governance and would be indispensable to ensure the emergency of the ASEM economies.

Mr. Ercolino Duilio, Member of the Italian House of Representatives observed that the idea of a European semester which would be launched in 2011 would enable Member States to review for 6 months the budgetary and structural problems of the EU Member States in order to detect inconsistencies or signs of potential imbalances. This strategy should enable an overall review to be drawn up before each Member State decided its own budget, and decided on an appropriate national economic policy.

The requirements of supranational coordination would help to build the United States of Europe. According to the European Commission, this was the only way forward.

As to the reform of the G20, Mr. Duilio considered that Europe should take the first step and promote the re-balancing of voting rights of the emerging economies.

The G20 must endeavour to manage more effectively the risks of contagion between countries, while guaranteeing a fairer allocation of global capital. This would have to be managed by the various national legislations. Of course, it involved effective management of the commercial banks. But even investment banks would need more effective protection by the G20 so as to avoid new crises in the future.

Action by the G20 needed to be more ambitious because the crisis had revealed the necessity of more one-off measures. The G20 should become the place where each country, in the knowledge that it was part of a global village, would have to provide its concrete response in order to achieve better-balanced markets.

Mr. Tanbanjong Phairoj, Member of the Thai House of Representatives, then addressed the meeting. During a reconstruction process, many countries had changed their financial policy in order to achieve economic stability. However, the recovery measures were perceived as fragile, as shown by increased unemployment, increased debt and the recurrence of the economic crisis in the European Union.

Thailand had suffered greatly from the economic crisis.

Various economic measures had been taken by the government to support the economy and disadvantaged sections of the population by means of appropriate stimulus packages.

Thailand was participating in efforts by the international community within the various fora such as the G20, ASEAN and the World Economic Forum. Thailand was promoting the establishment of a system of international cooperation, particularly by means of regional financial initiatives, such as the *Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization Agreement* by ASEAN+3 (ASEAN + China, Japan, Korea) the *Asian Bond Markets Initiative* or the *ASEAN Economic Community*. It was necessary to avoid fragmentation of markets, protectionism and arbitrary regulatory measures.

Governments must oversee the markets more carefully and ensure that better risk management was put in place, particularly via the Systemic Risks Council.

The public and private sectors must work together and spread good practice. Other measures required were stiffer legal sanctions and a battle against tax havens; the green economy should be promoted and dependence on imports should be curbed.

Improved coordination was also necessary between the G20 and the UN.

Mr. Sulisto Adisatrya Suryo, Member of the Indonesian House of Representatives considered that it was in the interest of Indonesia, which was participating in many international discussions, particularly within the G20, to set up safety nets capable of avoiding a new crisis and strengthen multilateral banking investments and human resources. Indonesia fully supports the programme of the G20, as well as all the tools that will enable implementation of international regulations.

Mr. Alevras Athanassios, Member of the Greek Parliament, considered that Greece had to re-establish its economic credibility as it faced a serious crisis. However, there were several lessons to be learned from the Greek crisis.

Despite oversight exercised by the Greek parliament, it had not been possible to avoid the crisis. Moreover, the crisis had not been prevented by the oversight that the European Commission is supposed to exercise.

Instruments were required to restore transparency to the economic and financial system.

A national crisis can quickly become an international one, which is to be avoided at all costs. It is not easy to set up such instruments, but now is the time to consider whether they are appropriate.

The crisis has also shown that rating agencies play a decisive role in aggravating the financial situation of a country.

Mme Doris Sophia Brodi, Member of the Malaysian Senate and rapporteur of panel 1 then tackled the medium-term consequences of the crisis and the Malaysian response.

Malaysia has a very open economy. The crisis led to a major reduction in exports until the third quarter of 2009. It also deterred private investment and weakened the labour market conditions. The impact of the crisis was mainly visible during the first quarter of 2009, with GDP falling by 6.2%. It also shrank by 3.9% in the second quarter of 2009. This mitigation was the result of two stimulus packages introduced by Malaysia in response to the global financial crisis which eased the burden of the crisis: Malaysia provided investment support and stimulated long-term development.

In the second half of 2009, the economy regained ground and continued along these lines into 2010. Malaysia had improved labour market conditions and encouraged consumption. The stabilisation of the global economy had also contributed to the improvement in the national economy. The banking system was sound, and that was reflected in the substantial solvency position of Malaysia.

The financial sector had continued to develop while ensuring financial stability. It grew and was able to meet the growing demand of the economy. The government had launched a new economic model in order to drive the Malaysian economy into the leading pack, with 6.5% GDP growth. This growth must be guaranteed in the long term.

Reforms to international financial regulations had been approved by Malaysia. It was important to ensure effective oversight of all financial institutions. The necessary financial reforms needed to be put in place so that the banking system is properly regulated.

After the crisis, several calls were made for reform, but unfortunately, the progress made has been very modest. More objectivity and responsibility needed to be introduced into this system. Better coordination and regulation were also required at international level. Certain measures were being examined to ensure greater transparency in all segments of the financial sector.

An early warning system allowing better sharing of information should be set up.

Coordination and cooperation between the various authorities needs to be intensified.

Malaysia also approved the decision taken by the G20 to reform the mandates and legitimacy of the international financial institutions. It was important to include the viewpoint of various open economies such as that of Malaysia, which were able to reduce the shocks. In future, the mechanisms must take account of the opinion of all stakeholders. In relation to market access, Malaysia was calling on the industrialised countries to attenuate those measures that encourage protectionism. The industrialised countries must also offer more financial resources to allow developing countries to participate in this process.

Concerning reform of the IMF, some progress had been made. However, it was important to reach conclusions quickly on the revision of IMF quotas. A reform of the governance of the IMF also involved a revision of the process of leadership of the IMF. Transparency was needed in relation to the top management of this institution.

Malaysia believed that greater emphasis needed to be placed on good governance. Malaysia wished for the monitoring process established by the IMF should take account of the institutional characteristics of each country. The IMF needed to ensure that its recommendations were actually implemented.

Mr. Lucas Juan José, Deputy Speaker of the Spanish Senate declared that his country had been deeply affected by the crisis. Unemployment had doubled: 40% of young Spaniards were unemployed. Spain had experienced difficulties similar to those of Greece. Spain had taken tough budget discipline measures.

Today's generations of workers no longer take forty years to be replaced. In the context of this radical change, the economy has been affected too.

Each economic system, each generation has its own characteristics. The reforms submitted to the IMF and the G20 needed to take account of these factors. The rating agencies needed to be reformed.

The danger lay not only in the financial crisis but also in a crisis of values, which was jeopardising solidarity, for example.

Mr. SA Duk Hong, Co-Chair of panel 1, concluded the work by emphasising that the G20 to be held in November in Seoul would have the objective of laying the foundations of a new international financial order, based on cooperation.

Panel 2

Sustainable development

The session was co-chaired by **Mr. Tetsuo Morimoto** and **Mr. Mihály Balla**.

Mr. Tetsuo Morimoto pointed out that in 1987, the Brundtland Report defined sustainable development as development meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

Decisions taken in a democracy are often short-term, without taking account of the interests of future generations. Therefore, many challenges (water, health, global warming, etc.) need to be addressed at regional, national and international levels.

Asia and Europe had to envisage together the actions necessary to protect future generations. Firmly-based mutual understanding would help to develop complementarities and find innovative solutions. Exchanges between MPs would surely contribute to increase mutual trust.

Discussions at this meeting would lead toward the next Summits on sustainable development.

Mr. Mihály Balla, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian National Assembly was delighted to meet new Members of parliament from Asia and Europe.

After Spain and Belgium, Hungary would assume the next Presidency of the European Union, and sustainable development would be a key theme. It was crucial to tackle subjects such as climate change, strategies for coping with growing water shortages and the development of everyday life within the development of the environment. In these fields, cooperation between Asia and Europe was excellent.

He hoped that the conference would be useful and that, together, answers would be found to these issues.

In Hungary, many people were working on these matters, and for society, those challenges needed to be taken up.

With the forthcoming ASEM Summit in mind, and following the Summit which was held on 26 and 27 May 2010 in Indonesia, **Mr. Tetsuo Morimoto** handed over to Mr. Koos Richelle, Director-General of EuropeAid at the European Commission, and Mr. Tantowi Yahya, Member of the House of Representatives of the Indonesian Parliament.

At the ASEM Summit in May 2010, there had been a lively debate, involving many participants, about how Asia and Europe could cooperate to achieve more sustainable development.

Mr. Koos Richelle, Director-General of EuropeAid: EuropeAid is the European Commission organisation responsible for financial support to 150 countries and regions of the world. In this capacity, he co-chaired the preparatory meeting of ASEM which was held in Jogjakarta in May 2010.

When one considered the economic make-up of the world, it was apparent that Asia was the largest contributor of GDP in the world. In the 1950s, Asia declined and the United States had recovered, but now Asia was once again assuming its role as a global leader. And that trend was growing stronger.

Poverty (defined as having income of less than \$ 1.25 per day) was reducing, and China was making a major contribution to that. It was necessary to tackle the problem of poverty. In many countries, income was 2 dollars a day, which was very little. There was much work to be done in this field.

If one considered the Millennium Development Goals, it was apparent that Asian countries were having difficulty in meeting these targets, especially in the fields of infant mortality, maternal health and the environment.

'Traditional' donors gave 3 billion in development aid to ASEM developing countries in 2008. But it was not known what would be the future of that aid, which was a mechanism considered by some as 'post-colonial' or charitable. The results of that aid were being increasingly discussed: was it encouraging the right policies? It was a debate that would happen in Europe, because the European Union had to define its strategies for the period 2014-2020.

The European Commission had granted Asia 1.2 billion in 2009 (including obligations connected with operations launched previously), but questions were being asked about aid: how to cooperate, and where would that aid be most effective?

Asia had been less affected by the crisis; even if the growth of these countries had been reduced, growth had recovered much more than in Europe. Globally, the hotspots of growth were Latin America, Asia and Africa (but there, the GDP was particularly low). In Asia, the statistics contributed to its role as 'number one' in the world.

In May 2010, EuropeAid organised a two-day meeting with the Indonesian government and the European Commission on the follow-up of the Manila conference on the development of ASEM in 2000.

'Sustainable development' had been defined at the Beijing conference. This included an economic, a social and an environmental component. In Indonesia, the emphasis had been placed on social cohesion. For the European Union, it was a priority in its cooperation. The GINI (between 0 and 100: 0 = equality in society, 100 = maximum inequality) shows the differences within a society.

It has to be said that there is a trend towards more safety nets in Asian countries.

It also has to be observed that some countries have not developed any policy for their poor population groups, or that their policies have a very limited impact on those groups.

Discussions are under way in Asia on the welfare state, particularly about the need for and the degree of state intervention. Some countries fear falling into the trap of competition and competitiveness. Admittedly, donors can help to reduce poverty. However, the policies of the countries concerned should contribute more to the eradication of poverty, and should bring greater equality and social integration.

With regard to climate change, the studies carried out showed very clearly that all countries would have to contribute to reducing carbon dioxide emission levels. While Europe wanted to return to previous emission levels for certain parts of the world, in the long term, the forecast was first for an increase and then a decrease in emissions. So the situation would get worse before getting better.

Political coherence was another important aspect of the cooperation of the European Union. Development aid only represents a low percentage of the macroeconomic situation of a country, particularly in comparison with direct inward investment. So all the policy aspects needed to be integrated.

Donor countries wanted to better coordinate their policies on climate change, on migration and on food security to provide a more coherent approach. For the beneficiary countries, it was important to know the intentions of donor countries and develop with each donor a special, individualised strategy with each donor, which corresponds to the expectations and needs of all concerned. It is also necessary to coordinate projects and develop concrete, coherent plans, both for donors and for beneficiary countries. Finally, investments needed to be diversified.

Two hundred representatives had adopted the Yogyakarta declaration, which called for sustainable, inclusive and intelligent growth.

The most important conclusions concern, first of all, carbon and the introduction of concrete and efficient strategies. The question of jobs was also a priority. The question of political coherence also deserves our attention.

The European Union wanted a fuller, more equal partnership. All the participants needed to benefit from the situation. It was also a matter of developing differentiated approaches depending on the countries concerned.

North-South development was thriving, but needed more information, statistics and publicity to meet demand and encourage South-South-North cooperation.

Finally, there was a need for greater dialogue to be developed. The European Union wished to be able to have reliable statistics for the medium-term or long-term outlook. There also needs to be reflection about new instruments, such as granting of loans to accelerate investment in infrastructures. So the process of reflection about the way in which cooperation would take place in the future needed to be deepened.

The Yogyakarta report was available, and Mr. Koos Richelle encouraged the participants to read it carefully.

Mr. Tantowi Yahya, Member of House of Representatives of Indonesia, considered that the theme of the meeting was very apt: partnerships needed to be strengthened in future. Parliaments play an important role in the steps to be taken for sustainable development.

In the 1990s, we saw the beginning of the participation of Asian countries in economic development. In 1997 and 1998, conditions changed because of the recession in some Asian countries. This was the context in which ASEM established this partnership between Asia and Europe to strengthen economic competitiveness, the development of human resources and to consider the poverty issue. But at the start of the twenty-first century, the challenges were still there.

Some countries of Asia and the Pacific were less affected by the financial and economic crisis. These countries are playing an important economic role today.

For ASEM, the challenges were clear: it was necessary to guarantee sustainable development through economic development that would provide jobs and enable the fight against poverty. Indonesia was facing the same challenges. These objectives needed to be attained, but the situation had changed. His country had experienced major reforms, the structure of the State had changed and democratic elections had been held. The role of the Indonesian parliament had been reinforced, both with regard to budgets and its legislative work. The situation was now more balanced. The Parliament had set its priorities as education, health and welfare. The government had also established a strategy to accelerate sustainable and inclusive economic growth which would enhance the well-being of the population. But they had realised that climate change would have a sizeable impact on economic growth. So Indonesia had incorporated into its legislative programme a target of reducing greenhouse gases by 26% and even 41% by 2020 thanks to international support. His country would analyse issues of forestry, energy, transport, industry, agriculture and waste management.

Another important aspect of sustainable development concerned prosperity and social protection. Government action was necessary to eradicate poverty. Indonesia had introduced three programmes with this aim. They were focused on households, communities and the development of micro-credit. There was also emphasis on improving primary education as well as technological and scientific education. With the government, the Parliament was participating in a better development policy.

The Indonesian parliament had also adopted laws on sustainable development, welfare, environmental conservation, social security or the protection of farmers. The intention was also to improve governance and the democratic process.

It was in this context that Indonesia hoped to keep its promises on the Millennium Development Goals in 2015. It was the role of the government, but not only the government; the Parliament had also set up a working party to this end. A few days previously, the Indonesian Parliament had made a strong declaration in favour of the Millennium Development Goals.

In May 2010, the ASEM II Conference had brought together two hundred delegates in Yogyakarta who, together, drafted a declaration showing the commitment of participating countries to sustainable development. This declaration shows how countries should establish cooperation arrangements to reach these objectives.

Finally, he hoped that the meeting would enable reinforcement of the international cooperation necessary to achieve a fairer society.

Lord Mohamed Sheikh, Member of the House of Lords (United Kingdom): Europe and Asia were facing the same challenges with regard to security, the fight against poverty, economic recovery and climate change.

The British government had decided to allocate 0.7% of its budget to development aid by 2013. It was necessary to establish an enhanced dialogue between developing and developed countries, achieve sustainable economic growth. Developed countries had to help developing countries to adapt to the effects and costs of climate change. One of the successes of the Copenhagen Summit had been the commitment from developed countries to provide one hundred billion dollars by 2010 to help these countries.

By combating conflicts, we would also be fighting against poverty and encouraging sustainable development. A multi-faceted approach to sustainable development was needed, consistent with the Cotonou agreements. The UN's Millennium Goals were already from ten years ago. They contained practical measures to fight poverty and suffering.

The aim needed to be to turn rights for millions of human beings into a reality, by reducing hunger and poverty while improving health, the environment, education and gender equality.

A global strategy was required. Many human beings were still dying from illnesses which were nevertheless considered easily curable.

Resources like jobs were necessary to fight poverty. As a *businessman*, he was convinced that trade between peoples encouraged a certain kind of peace. SMEs had a role to play in innovation and job creation. Their development needed to be encouraged in developing countries (incentives, reduced taxation, etc.).

Education was also a prime way out of poverty. Cultural, scientific and educational organisations considered that a year of education increased the chances of getting out of poverty by 10%. Primary education needed to be made compulsory in every country.

Mrs. Ann De Jonghe, Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF) was working on the theme of solidarity. With her colleagues from Indonesia, Cambodia and Sri Lanka, she was part of the AEPF invited by ASEP.

'Quality of life', on the ASEM agenda, was a major issue for both Asia and Europe. Social protection of workers was weakening almost everywhere (obligations circumvented by businesses, use of very short-term contracts, etc.).

Over half the world's population had no social safety net at all. However, that was an effective instrument for fighting poverty and achieving the Millennium Goals.

Social cohesion and the social safety nets were mentioned as priorities by the Declaration of Yogyakarta (May 2010).

Her forum wanted to appeal to the persons present and decision-makers to see what could be done on this subject. A strong signal needed to be given to the ASEM Summit at the beginning of October 2010. The AEPF wanted, in the long term, social safety nets to become universal throughout the world, by adapting it to the national contexts. The United Nations initiative on the subject could constitute a useful instrument.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), less than 2% of global GDP would be necessary to provide the basic guarantees at global level. The European Union needed to incorporate that idea into its development cooperation, with a clear implementation strategy. What was needed was clear commitments, a clear strategy, regulation and respect for the principles and fundamentals of labour law, as laid down in the ILO Conventions (nos 100, 102 and 198).

Asian countries needed to invest more in enforcement of labour laws, which implied resources for training independent factory inspectors. This would be a first indication of good faith.

Mrs. Krairiksh Pikulkeaw, Senator from Thailand: In June 1992, the delegates of 178 nations met at the Earth Summit in Rio, and launched a process to achieve sustainable development, particularly with regard to the environment and the well-being of future generations.

To achieve those objectives, Thailand needed various measures to promote knowledge about natural resources, increase the efficiency of their use, and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. It was also necessary to protect natural resources and the environment to offer platforms for sustainable economic evolution. There has also been changes globally, although some of the plans were already dated. The time elapsed enabled some of those plans to be evaluated. These were basic conditions for aiding countries with limited resources.

It was also necessary to manage demography. Non-renewable resources should no longer be used. Pollution could not be allowed to exceed the environment's capacity to absorb it. Biodiversity was a good indicator of that capacity. Countries needed to enact environmental laws and standards.

As Members of parliament of the ASEP, the implementation of multilateral agreements should be accelerated by all parties. Policies to improve sustainable development of populations should be supported. Thailand would support this process in South-East Asia.

Ms. Mitsue Kondo, Member of the Japanese House of Representatives, wanted to speak about sustainable development as a citizen of Earth. The financial crisis due to the *subprime* crisis continued to have an impact on the global economy. Global warming also had innumerable consequences.

Sustainable development was a crucial concept for solving these problems. If we pooled our knowledge and cooperated at a global level, we could create sustainable societies. Economic development, social progress and environmental development were interdependent.

The Japanese experience could be useful. In the 1960s and '70s, her country had experienced rapid economic development, with consequences in terms of pollution, but it had been able to solve these problems by the concerted efforts and wisdom of its people. Japan was now providing new environmental technologies (hybrid vehicles, heat recovery in industry, and water purification). These systems had to be shared, because nobody could be rich or safe on their own.

As citizens, we should consider sharing experience. Countries had to play their role in complying with the Kyoto Protocol, and achieving a balance between economy, social aspects and the environment. Japan was also proposing measures to equally bear the cost of abatement (for reduction of greenhouse gases) based on MAC (Marginal Abating Cost). There was a need for a united sense of belonging to planet Earth.

Japan would develop, with others, environmental technologies. It was necessary to act now, because resources were limited. It was essential to work together, because otherwise, the 21st century would be a sombre century. We had to offer a better future to subsequent generations. Asian and European Members of parliament needed to take critical decisions and establish more sustainable societies.

Mr. Klavdios Mavrohannas, Member of the House of Representatives of Cyprus: the question of sustainable development was one of the greatest challenges that humanity had faced for a long time. The European Union had devoted a lot of attention to it, and incorporated the environmental dimension into its policies. Modern development could not be allowed to jeopardise the ability of future generations to develop.

This development was a global issue, and could not be tackled unilaterally. The countries of Asia and Europe had set up structured cooperation in this field. That dialogue needed to be reinforced, especially in the fields where the challenges were greatest: climate change, social cohesion, management of the global economy.

The ILO's Global Jobs Pact of June 2009 needed to be implemented quickly. We also had to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, especially with regard to education and health. There was need for improvement in technological innovation, science, transport and for a reduction of the consequences of climate change.

Cyprus supported the revision of the European sustainable development strategy. His country proposed the following priorities: climate change (in the context of a horizontal approach, incorporated into inter-sectoral measures), transport and sustainable management of natural resources. The inter-sectoral character of sustainable development required coordination mechanisms, to be adopted at local, regional and national level.

Mr. Khamsing Sayakone, Member of the National Assembly of Laos: The theme of sustainable development called for concerted and reasonable solutions. The accelerated development of human activities had led to a greater exploitation of natural resources and major changes in local and global ecosystems. All countries were now required to take action to protect national resources. That was an obligation towards future generations and a prerequisite for achieving sustainable economic growth and conserving the raw materials necessary for technological innovation. It was also necessary to be able to meet the growing demand for long-term energy sources and demand for food.

The Laotian government had designated various priority economic sectors and put in place national programmes for sustainable development and eradication of poverty.

Investments made in these fields, healthy macroeconomic development and an improvement in governance ought to enable them to reach ambitious targets for food security, development of human resources, socio-economic development, reduction of income differentials between rural and urban areas and improvement of education and health care.

The modernisation of the agricultural sector and the forestry sector constituted a priority to ensure food security and improve the living conditions of the whole Laotian population.

The government had also examined and promulgated a plan for efficient and safe use of land and natural resources. His country aimed to provide training for the population so that it would be aware of what was at stake in these issues. New technological instruments were also necessary, particularly for weather forecasting.

The government would be strengthening its governance structure and training its staff, in order to manage sustainable development effectively.

Concerning sustainable access to energy, Laos was encouraging large-scale power station projects supplying electricity to remote rural areas. The target was to give 70% of households access to electricity by the end of 2010.

Laos had considerable hydro-electric potential which, if developed, should enable electricity to be supplied to most areas of the country.

Maintenance of biodiversity was the priority challenge to meet the basic needs of the population, and adapt to environmental changes by supporting the development of varied economic sectors with a promising future. That was why his country would continue to invest in these fields.

The parliament would ratify the relevant international conventions and promote national legislation consistent with the sustainable development principle. Citizens and all stakeholders needed to be made more aware. The Laotian National Assembly had ratified the Convention on Biodiversity, the Kyoto Protocol and the International Framework Convention on Climate Change. It had also adopted a series of laws concerning water resources, forestry and environmental conservation. Efforts needed to continue to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

There had been an acceleration in the economic growth of developing countries and an improvement of the living conditions of the populations of those countries.

The international community had to continue devoting its attention to encouraging a balance in the exploitation of natural resources and sustainable economic development. The National Assembly of Laos had reiterated its commitment to continuing international cooperation with the international community.

Mr. Alberto Torazzi, Member of the Italian House of Representatives: The crisis had demonstrated the need for a change of attitude. It was important to analyse the means of increasing development worldwide so that all countries could benefit from it. Increases in production had to comply with social and environmental standards. The development of China called for the implementation of a global strategy for sustainable development to become systemic. It was necessary to support labour, not just trade. We could enable countries to be self-sufficient up to 50%, and think about acceptable customs duties. Then, countries could concentrate more on production and local performance by developing their internal market. Poor countries would be able to benefit more from national production. The emphasis needed to be put on jobs and the development of new markets. There needed to be a level playing field for all businesses.

It would be interesting to define an indicator enabling an objective measurement of real CO₂ emissions and the GDP of a country. Realistic objectives needed to be set, tailored to the countries concerned, in order to lead them to develop more efficient industrial policies that respected the environment.

It was also necessary to setup independent auditing of international aid so that the money actually reached the beneficiaries of the programmes.

Mr. Zhenzhong Nan, Vice-President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress of China: We inherited the Earth from our ancestors, and we will pass it on to our descendants. In view of the number of people living in China, there were obviously concerns about water consumption. So China had decided to take action at various levels. Local governments were being encouraged no longer to use certain materials and to encourage recycling. Each year, 45 million pairs of chopsticks were used for eating, which represents a million square metres of forest. Of course, that also represented an enormous quantity of water to make those forests grow. China had declared war on waste, which would benefit the whole of humanity.

With regard to energy, China had closed small, less efficient power stations, and encouraged more efficient air conditioning and lighting systems. Over the past four years, his country had recorded a 13% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

As the main legislative body in China, the members of the National People's Congress had to take their responsibilities seriously, and tackle climate change through the legislative process. They were trying to promote a more sustainable economy and renewable energy, while punishing anti-social behaviour in environmental matters. His country wished to use the United Nations Framework Convention for Sustainable Development as well as the Kyoto Protocol to make progress on this subject, and enable the promotion of sustainable development.

China was prepared to take its responsibilities seriously and cooperate internationally to protect his country as well as the entire planet.

Mr. Seppo Kääriänen, 1st Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Finland: Finland supported policy coherence on sustainable development at international level. During the meeting in Beijing in 2008, it had been planned to work together on the preparation of the Copenhagen Conference. The Conference had not produced the results expected by international public opinion, and the cooperation between countries did not work as well as hoped. Therefore, it was necessary to intensify the dialogue both at national and international level. The European Union had to spend more time and attention on energy security. Finland wished to draw attention to the crucial role of the Arctic in the debate on sustainable development, since the effects of global warming were manifesting themselves faster there than elsewhere. Europe and Asia therefore needed to cooperate closely on this issue.

Finland was working actively so that the role of the Arctic Council could be respected. Everyone needed to bear sustainability in mind. The possibilities of new resources and new ways of exploiting them were fascinating. Environmental treasures were at stake, and they needed to be protected. Governments should ask themselves how to bring the poorest countries on board the work that their country was doing to encourage sustainable development. The promotion of cooperation by the Arctic Region with ASEP also needed to be organised.

Mrs. Eva Brems, Member of the Belgian House of Representatives: It was important that the work of ASEP should lead to a declaration that would be put on the agenda for the ASEM Summit. This had to reflect correctly who we are, since we are the representatives of the population, who are not taken sufficiently into account in international legal texts, and we are the ones who draft the laws. The law and compliance with international human rights standards needed to form the foundation of any sustainable development. Human beings were entitled to social and economic development, as well as rights relating to health, food, gender equality and freedom of speech.

The amendments proposed, which aimed to incorporate human rights into the text, were very good.

Concerning global sustainable development, in addition to respect and dialogue, Mrs. Brems considered that frankness should be encouraged in the discussions. Of course, there were divergences of views, particularly about Africa, but common interests needed to be upheld. This kind of forum was really the appropriate place, and she hoped that these topics would be incorporated into the agenda of the next meeting.

Mr. Hidayat Nur Wahid, Member of the Indonesian House of Representatives: The Indonesian delegation recognised the importance of international cooperation, mainly with regard to climate change and the fight against poverty. Indonesia was insistent that this cooperation should be reinforced in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, with particular attention to efficiency.

As Mr. Richelle had pointed out, sustainable development could not be dissociated from the social dimension, and issues of migration to find work. Sustainable development had to reflect that dimension. It was well known that people came to Europe to look for work. Over the previous few months, elections had been won in several European countries by parties with a very specific approach to migration relating to work. He considered that a positive approach needed to be developed on this subject. He hoped that it would be possible to establish a constructive Asia-Europe dialogue, in the knowledge that it was not easy to have the same viewpoints and that certain people are not always treated properly (*Applause*).

Mr. Patrick Moriau, Member of the Belgian House of Representatives: Every three seconds, one person starved to death in this world. Food security was the foundation of any sustainable development. In 2008, food riots took place in Asia and Africa, and consequences were felt in food prices even in the West. Massive urbanisation, the growth in world population and the increase in demand for food, the abandonment of subsistence farming, and buying-up of land to grow biofuels had all caused upheavals. Speculating in food was the same as speculating in human lives. Rather than coherence, what was needed was world governance.

The role of members of parliament was essential, because it was based on multilateralism which presupposed dialogue, tolerance and respect. That was the fundamental issue: multilateralism or unilateralism. Relations between parliaments needed to be intensified, because it was parliamentarians who made the laws. They could outlaw food speculation, adopt laws on social safety nets or writing-off debt.

Mr. Koos Richelle, Director-General of EuropeAid: It was important that sustainable development, whether in social, economic or environmental terms, was treated as being of the utmost importance. Interesting proposals had been put on the table today, and would certainly give rise to subsequent discussions.

Technology transfer was essential. How could it be achieved? How would it be paid for? But above all, it had to be ensured that technology transfer strengthened the capacities of the beneficiary countries.

Mr. Tantowi Yahya, Member of the Indonesian House of Representatives, considered that the contributions had been interesting. There were lessons to be learned, for example, from the statements of the Chinese and Japanese participants.

He wanted to underscore again what Indonesia was doing for sustainable development. 20 % of the national budget was devoted to education. It was the largest area of spending. Education and training helped fight poverty.

Finally, Mr. Tantowi Yahya emphasised the importance of international cooperation to resolve problems connected with sustainable development.

Mr. Tetsuo Morimoto, Co-Chair, thanked all those who had participated in this very interesting and useful meeting and hoped that it would be reflected in the measures that the participants would take in their countries.

Second Plenary Session

The session was chaired by Mr. Willy Demeyer, 1st Deputy Speaker of the Belgian Senate.

Mrs. Doris Sophia Brodi (Malaysia), Rapporteur of Panel I. The discussions in the first panel were devoted to economic and financial powers.

The majority of delegations emphasised the need for regulation of the financial and banking sector. An early warning system and an information-sharing system needed to be put in place. Capital guarantees were also required. All these conditions would have to be fulfilled by all countries, including the United States.

The United States and Europe had already taken stability measures. Several delegations deemed it indispensable to introduce more effective controls over rating agencies and standardise the capital adequacy rules of developed and emerging economies. Climate change commitments were also required.

The resources of the IMF needed to be expanded, and emerging economies needed to have voting rights there. Currently, emerging economies were having difficulty in accessing IMF loans. This system needed reform so that countries that needed help could be assisted. That reform required active participation by all countries and appropriate new regulatory instruments.

Mr. Patrick Moriau (Belgium): Concerning the second panel, on the subject of sustainable development, the first speaker Mr. Koos Richelle, Director General of the *Europeaid Office* has spoken, aided by graphics and statistics, of a reduction in poverty. That was still one of the main challenges to be taken up, although the financial crisis had had less effect on Asia, which was still recording some growth. Another challenge was social cohesion, which was experiencing great disparities and leading to upheavals. It was necessary to coordinate the various policies at European level and implement the commitments given at the last ASEM conference in Jogjakarta.

The second speaker was Mr. Tantowi Yahya, Member of the Indonesian Parliament, who stated that the major challenge for Asia was to maintain sustainable economic development. In the past twelve years, the government and the parliament in Indonesia had developed strategies for sustainable development. The Millennium Goals were being carefully monitored. Important commitments were given in May 2010 in Jogjakarta about collaboration between Europe and Asia.

The statements by these two speakers laid the foundations for a debate structured around several ideas: cooperation, globalisation of challenges, the fact that the economic crisis and climate change affected every population and that to improve living conditions, it was necessary to take measures in various fields.

There was a great need for increased global awareness. Respect of human rights and education were also essential foundations for sustainable development.

Mr. Patrick Moriau wanted to emphasise the power of parliaments to change the world, because they represented the people and passed laws. He also stated his support for multilateralism and called for global coherence.

Lord Mohamed Sheikh, Member of the House of Lords (United Kingdom) had participated in the drafting of the final declaration, and mentioned three of its points: It was important to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in order to allow everyone to live in dignity. Despite financial difficulties and a budget deficit of 156 billion pounds, his country had increased its efforts to fight against the scourge of malaria by helping other nations to increase their prosperity, developed countries could increase their own.

On the environment, his country had decided to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 80% by 2050, and a very large wind farm had just been opened.

Gender equality would help to achieve the goals. It involved giving responsibility to women, which was essential for tackling social and economic challenges. However, women did not have equal opportunities of getting jobs, in education or health, and were all too often victims of conflicts in which they were sometimes used as weapons.

The United Kingdom had ratified the convention on human trafficking, the modern-day form of slavery.

Mr. Seppo Kääriänen, 1st Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Finland: Finland had hosted the ASEP meeting in 2006, which enabled him to be particularly engaged in this process and participate actively in the meeting in Beijing in 2008.

A considerable step forward had been taken in Helsinki in 2006, with the adoption of very formal rules. He wanted strengthening of the ties between ASEP and ASEM. Finland had proposed some practical ideas, and he was happy to state that they had been well received and incorporated into the final declaration. Finland also wanted member parliaments to strengthen the leadership of the ASEP and for the ASEM process to be correctly disseminated so there was proper communication between ASEP and ASEM. He encouraged member parliaments to improve the continuity of the work of ASEP at national level. After the Beijing Summit, his country had wanted to continue the work of ASEP. He hoped that after the elections, his parliament would set up a permanent delegation, which would participate in at least two consecutive meetings of ASEP.

There needed to be a return to the optimism that was so apparent when the ASEM process had begun in the 1980s. He hoped that the parliaments would be able to contribute to giving policy directions for the many current challenges via ASEP. There needed to be even more common ground and areas of cooperation between ASEP and ASEM.

Mr. Alberto Torazzi, Member of the Italian House of Representatives considered that two points had not yet been properly addressed

With regard to electricity and energy, it had not been possible to determine indicators of CO₂ emission. A defined target would enable a country to consider efficiency in the use and production of energy. All countries wanted to make large reductions, but without being penalised. The historic approach was no longer enough. What was needed was efficiency and performance.

There was no system to encourage the development of all countries. The poorest countries were not in a position to be competitive. Social and environmental costs were not taken into account in the rise in rising GDP in the various countries. Free trade was important, but development of all countries needed to be ensured too.

Mr. Quoc Khanh Nguyen, Deputy Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation (Singapore): The ASEP foundation was participating in the ASEP meeting for the first time, and he thanked the organisers for inviting him.

Meetings like this were important because they stimulated bilateral relations, exchanges of ideas and experience. Hundreds of activities linked to this partnership had created lasting ties between Asia and Europe. Many proposals had come to fruition in many different fields. It was a real platform for dialogue between the two continents, which is important in a period of economic and financial crisis. We had to join forces to take account of environmental aspects.

In 2000, young MPs from the ASEM actively contributed to very positive cooperation between Asia and Europe. This gave rise to a better perception and better relations, which could support sustainable development and civil liberties.

Better relations with Europe were contributing to strengthening democracy and the fight against terrorism. Debates on economic cooperation and free trade were also contributing to better understanding. The enhanced role of parliamentarians was a positive element.

The environment in which we were living had undergone major changes since the last meeting in Bangkok in 1996. We were living on an increasingly globalised world, which brought with it economic, climatic, social and security challenges. The themes discussed here and the final declaration would therefore be important contributions to preparing the ASEM Summit in October.

Mr. Nguyen thanked Belgium for its hospitality, as well as everyone who supported ASEF in its missions.

Mr. Ercolino Duilio, Member of the Italian House of Representatives: Meetings like that of ASEP were very useful and created greater hope of improving the situation of our countries and our planet in general.

He considered such meetings to be so useful that he proposed that they should be held annually rather than every two years, because the changes are so rapid and the problems so serious that an agenda each year would accelerate the response to these problems.

Moreover, this meeting involved parliaments, which represented the people, and to whom governments were accountable. The solutions that needed to be found to the problems had to be driven by the parliaments, as the result of the shared conscience, and a reflection of public opinion. Governments sometimes overlook parliaments, but if we wanted to achieve long-term aims, they would need to increase their clout in their respective countries.

To get results, in view of the complexity of the problems, the principles of unanimity and consensus could not be allowed to lead to inertia. When coming here, it was necessary to understand our counterparts, and find points of mediation, to make progress.

Today, the process of globalisation and communication show that we are moving towards a 'global village', towards a shared vision. Politics and parliaments must regain their primacy over the economy. The work done by parliaments must lead to results, even at moral and ethical level (liberty, social justice, redistribution, fight against poverty). These meetings were useful, and ought to take place more frequently: once a year, instead of every two years.

Mr. Pavel Shopov, Member of the House of Representatives of Bulgaria: The façade of the Bulgarian parliament building features the same motto as in Belgium 'Unity is strength'. Bulgaria is 1500 years old, and during that period, there have been many changes in the world.

The ASEP Assembly enables that motto to be extended to relations between Europe and Asia (including Australia, New Zealand and Russia). Unity was a major strength. In any case, we did not espouse the slogan of globalisation, but wish to maintain the identity of each country, each region, for example in the context of the various parliaments. He wanted that unity to incorporate diversity, maintaining each one's identity.

Many problems had been tackled during this meeting. Some had existed for decades or even centuries: these were problems of human rights, environmental problems, gender inequality. But new problems had also been described, which arose from the economic crisis. Everyone was trying to overcome the crisis to the best of their ability, but longer-standing problems had never been solved.

Among these problems were the downside of liberalisation. More regulation was needed in the banking and insurance sectors. There were discussions about rating agencies, the IMF. Sometimes people were afraid to mention a problem.

What had been highlighted by his Malaysian colleague had given cause for optimism. When trying to solve problems, new or older ones, you had to know what technology to use. First the problems had to be identified, then have the will to solve them, and then work flat out to solve them, in order to increase the well-being of our countries, and bring about a better world.

Mr. Patrick Moriau, as the Chair of the Drafting Committee, thanked his colleagues for their collaboration in a task that had seemed, *a priori*, insurmountable. The Drafting Committee had met on 26 and 27 September, and an informal meeting had brought together the representatives of China, Italy, the United Kingdom and Belgium, to discuss paragraphs where they had expressed reserves. These discussions enabled drafting of paragraphs 23 and 26 of the Chapter devoted to social progress. There was also discussion of accounting for carbon emissions and their reduction. China asked for deletion of this article, which had become paragraph 30. It had not been possible to reach a consensus, so he invoked Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure for the Final Declaration.

The draft declaration reviewed the work of ASEP VI. It also sets out the concerns flagged to ASEM ahead of its Summit on 4 and 5 October. These concerned, first of all, economic challenges, perceived as the opportunity to promote the quality of life of populations in Europe and in Asia. Secondly, the necessity of a genuine partnership for sustainable development was emphasised. Thirdly, the more economic aspects of development, and particularly those concerning the necessary global financial and economic governance were tackled. Fourthly, for environmental protection, the continuation of the exchanges of views ought to enable the viewpoints to be brought together.

For the rest, he referred to the draft declaration.

Finally, it was added that the draft contained a point relating specifically to piracy at sea.

Mr. Hidayat Nur Wahid, Member of the Indonesian House of Representatives: Paragraph 46 did not correspond to the delegation's wishes. The Indonesian delegation would like the clause to take account of the situation off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. The Indonesian delegation wanted the third sentence of this paragraph to be reformulated.

Mr. Patrick Moriau: The Indonesian amendment had been adopted. This was probably an error in the transcription from the old text.

The Chair: A new text would correct that error.

Mr. Wei Li, Member of the Economic and Financial Committee of the National People's Congress of China: the Chinese delegation considered that the response to climate change should be based on the principles of the Kyoto Protocol and of the United Nations, which is based on common but differentiated positions. But the formulation in the declaration was not so clear, and therefore some modifications needed to be made. He hoped that the participants would take account of their amendments.

Mr. Alberto Torazzi, Member of the Italian House of Representatives considered that a minor error had crept into the debate. They were busy with an amendment intended to delete part of point 34 when this amendment was passed. He asked for it to be taken into account that, due to a minor delay, he had not been able to oppose that amendment. If he had been able to do so, there would not have been a consensus.

Lord Mohamed Sheikh, Member of the House of Lords (United Kingdom) considered that there would not be a problem rewording this point, which would enable a consensus to be reached.

Mr. Patrick Moriau pointed out that in the Drafting Committee, around fifty articles had been adopted the previous day. Only two remained unresolved, including Article 30. But if one article was re-opened, there was no reason not to re-open the others. It was necessary to accept compromises which, by definition, would not completely satisfy all participants.

Mr. Wei Li, Member of the Economic and Financial Committee of the National People's Congress of China: The objective of the meetings was to strengthen the dialogue between China and Europe. But if an article was not the subject of consensus, it should not be imposed against the will of one party. Otherwise, what would be the use of future meetings? So the Chinese delegation proposed to delete Article 30 from the declaration and postpone it to a subsequent meeting. Or return to a previous wording that was accepted by everyone.

Mr. Patrick Moriau considered that, without a consensus, Article 30 should be withdrawn and, pursuant to Article 22, it should be stated that failing consensus, it has been postponed.

The Chair asked whether there was consensus on Mr. Moriau's proposal. Apparently this was the case.

Mr. Pavel Shopov, Member of the Bulgarian House of Representatives, considered that there would be another possibility: the country which had a reserve about any paragraph could sign the declaration mentioning that reserve.

Mrs. Olga Zrihen, Member of the Belgian Senate, replied that all participants had reached a consensus. She proposed leaving the matter there.

Mr. Patrick Moriau: On the subject of the proposal by our Bulgarian colleague, the ASEP Rules of Procedure could be amended on another occasion to allow signature subject to a reserve in the future, but for today, he proposed to leave matters there.

The Chair: The proposal is therefore to withdraw Article 30 from the declaration, pursuant to Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure, and mention that we did not reach agreement on Article 30 and that we will discuss it at a future meeting, which will enable us to use our mode of adoption by consensus. Do you agree to this proposal? (assent)

Mr. Khamsing Sayakone, Member of the National Assembly of Laos: On behalf of the National Assembly of Laos and its delegation, he was pleased that the participants in ASEP had worked very hard, in the common interests of the region Asia/Europe as well as of the world, and that a consensus had been found on the points on the agenda. He was well aware of the responsibilities and trust of his colleagues, so the Laotian delegation was proud to accept the Presidency of the Assembly for the next term of office. It was a great pleasure to accept this mandate on behalf of his country, he concluded.

The Chair: To conclude this 6th meeting of ASEP, the Chair declared that he was pleased that it had been conducted in a totally positive and constructive spirit. In view of globalisation, it was no longer possible to settle for an 'East' or 'West' position. It was necessary to establish cooperation in order to achieve prosperity, solidarity and sustainable development globally. By joining forces, it was possible to contribute to assisting States affected by the crisis. It was only by intensifying the debate that solutions could be proposed to the world.

He was really satisfied and certain that these discussions were of major importance and could contribute to the discussions within ASEM on 4 and 5 October 2010.

The ASEM 8 Summit in Brussels would give the leaders of Asia and Europe the possibility of reaching a new partnership and ensuring that global development occurred in a balanced way, with respect for the environment and the social aspect. It was necessary to dare to broaden these debates to other territories and develop the ASEP process further, as the Finnish ASEP 4 Presidency had proposed. It was also necessary to check the way in which governments developed the fields designated as priorities in relation to ASEP.

It is important to remain active and visible between meetings. That is why the proposal from Finland that the Presidency should be assumed by the host country, assisted by the previous and next country is an excellent one, because it ensures continuity.

He said that he was an advocate of parliamentary diplomacy. Parliaments were active on the international stage if they created understanding between countries and increasing the legitimacy of inter-governmental institutions. They should play that active role and develop mutual understanding. ASEM provides instruments for extending that dialogue. It was necessary to ensure the continuity of that parliamentary partnership.



ASEPVI Preparatory Meeting

Sunday 26 September 2010

Chair: Patrick Moriau

Dear colleagues members of the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership

Excellencies

Dear Guests,

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to welcome today in the Federal Parliament of Belgium the heads and members of delegations who are taking part to our preparatory meeting on the occasion of the 6th edition of the ASEP-meeting in Brussels.

Let me first emphasize that our ASEP meeting is taking place in Brussels while our country is assuming for six months the Presidency of the European Union Council. On that occasion, many other parliamentary conferences reflecting Belgian views on EU-topics will take place in our Federal Parliament in the coming months.

Our ASEP meeting provides us with the opportunity to enhance the EU-dialogue with our Asian partners. That's why I am convinced that the participation of delegations from 22 Asian and European member countries of the ASEP partnership and of the European Parliament to our working sessions will allow us to have a broad and open debate on the most various issues of common interest with respect for the general principles of our ASEP meetings aiming at equality of partnership, open process, informality and dialogue leading to co-operation and to connected action.

Let me also welcome the participation of a delegation of the Russian Federation who is attending our meeting for the first time with the status of observer. Their presence in our Assembly today is the tangible result of the ASEM enlargement process that aims also at integrating Australia and New-Zealand as new member countries.

Their full membership to ASEM will become effective at the ASEM Summit that will take place next week in Brussels.

Let me remind you that the final declaration of our ASEP VI meeting will be on the agenda of this ASEM Summit.

We are meeting today to examine the agenda, the programme and the meeting procedures of the plenary session of tomorrow in order to ease the path towards the adoption of our final declaration.

Appointment of meeting's officers

Let us start with the appointment of the meeting's officers

Both Presidents of the Senate and of the House of Representatives are Presidents of the ASEP Meeting. The head of the delegation of each participating country is the spokesperson of the delegation and is designated as Vice-President of the Meeting. The Vice-Presidents may be consulted by the President of the meeting on procedural as well as substantive matters at any time during the meeting if the President deems necessary.

There will be two parallel Panel Discussions during the meeting that will take place on Monday 27 September at 10.30:

in panel 1 – a discussion on effective financial and economic world governance structures

in panel 2 – a discussion on sustainable development in its social, economic and environmental dimensions.

Panel discussions will be co-chaired by one representative from Asia and one from Europe.

Panel 1 will be co-chaired by my esteemed colleague Mr. Herman De Croo, Minister of State, former Minister and former Speaker of the House of representatives, and by Mr. Sa Duk Hong, Head of the Korean delegation and Honourable Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

Panel 2 will be co-chaired by Honourable colleague Mr. Mihaly Balla from the Parliament of Hungary and the honourable head of the Japanese delegation, Mr. Tetsuo Morimoto, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan.

There will be a presentation by keynote speakers in each panel discussion.

In panel 1, M. Jozef Kortleven, advisor-general at the Belgian Ministry of Finance, and Mr LI Wei, honourable Member of the Economic and Financial Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress will deliver statements as keynote speakers.

In panel 2, the floor will be given to Mr. Koos Richelle, Director-General of EuropeAid Co-operation Office at the European Commission and the Honourable Tantowi Yahya, Honourable Member of the Parliament of Indonesia.

The panel discussions will also have one rapporteur each, one from Asia and one from Europe. The rapporteurs will give short summaries of the panel discussions at the second plenary session on Monday 27 September at 14.30.

We have asked different members to be rapporteurs without success so far.

Can we eventually ask Mrs Brodi from the Malaysian delegation to be rapporteur considering her initial demand to be chair of panel 1.

I propose to be rapporteur for panel 2.

Meeting procedures

Concerning the meeting procedures, let me remind you that our session of the ASEPVI meeting has been prepared and will be organized on the basis of the ASEP Rules of Procedure that you can find in your conference documents.

After our preparatory meeting there will be a Drafting Committee meeting today at 17.00 and, if needed, on Monday, September 27, at 13.15 after the panel discussion.

Interested delegates are invited to participate in this meeting with one delegate per country. I will chair the drafting committee and I invite the delegates interested in participating to the drafting committee to join us after our preparatory meeting in room 5 of the House at 17.00.

The Drafting Committee will examine the amendments tabled by the delegations so far and will finalize the text of the final declaration that will be presented to the plenary meeting tomorrow. We have distributed on your benches the text of the consolidated version of the last draft final declaration with the proposed amendments to allow you to examine the proposed amendments before the drafting committee.

If you have new amendments, I encourage you to table them today in the drafting committee in order to have the final text of our declaration today that I will present tomorrow at the end of the second plenary session for adoption by the Assembly.

I remind you that decisions at all ASEP Meetings are adopted by consensus among official delegations.

The working language of the Meeting is English. Translation is available in French and English and there are translation facilities for Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Indonesian and Spanish which will be provided in the plenary session during the two plenary sessions and panel discussion 1 “about effective economical and financial world government” and in the Salle des Congrès meeting room for panel discussion 2 “about sustainable development”. Both panels will take place tomorrow at 10.30.

Delegates wanting to take the floor during the debates are asked to register by using a special form available in the meeting rooms and in the secretariat. Speakers are encouraged to register with the Secretariat before or during the sessions. The chair of the meeting will establish a list of speakers taking into consideration the order in which delegates have asked for the floor as well as regional balance between Asian and European delegations, the need to give precedence to delegates of ASEP member parliaments taking the floor for the first time and relevance of the speaker’s country to the issue at hand.

To ensure broad participation in debates and efficiency in the sessions all interventions will be limited to five minutes. If necessary this time limit will be additionally shortened during the meeting.

Delegates who have prepared texts in advance are kindly asked to hand them to the secretariat for copying and for distribution to the interpreters.

Ambassadors of all ASEP Countries and representatives of institutions related to the ASEM Process Asia-Europe Foundation, Asia-Europe People’s Forum as well as the European Commission are invited to attend the meeting as guests of the host parliament.

The host country will prepare a summary report of the conference. The draft report will be circulated to each delegation for comments before it is published.

Programme and agenda of the plenary meeting

The first plenary session will be held tomorrow at 09.00 in the plenary hall of the House of representatives.

The meeting will be chaired by Mr. André Flahaut, Speaker of the House of Representatives. He will make the opening address to the Assembly.

Mr. Steven Vanackere, our Minister for Foreign Affairs, as host of the ASEM8-Summit, and Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, will address speeches to the Assembly.

The honourable NAN Zhenzhong, Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, will then take the floor as host of the ASEP5-meeting that took place in Beijing in 2008.

After the adoption of the agenda and of the procedural decisions as presented by our preparatory meeting, panel 1 and 2 discussions will take place at 10.30, respectively in the Plenary Hall of the House and in the Salle des Congrès.

Our drafting committee might eventually meet again at 13.15 if really needed and in case new amendments were tabled in order to finalize the ultimate version of the final declaration.

During the second plenary session taking place at 14.30 in the Plenary Hall of the House, the 2 reports on the panel discussions will be presented by the rapporteurs.

The presentation will be followed by a discussion.

The chair of the drafting committee will then present the final declaration to the Assembly that has to adopt it by consensus among the delegations.

Finally, a representative of the host Parliament of ASEP VII in 2010 will take the floor, followed by the 1st vice-president of the Belgian Senate who will deliver the closing address to the ASEP-meeting.

May I ask if a decision has already been taken by an Asian Parliament to host the ASEP VII meeting, I remind you that Laos has accepted the Presidency of ASEM in 2012.

Does everybody agree with the draft agenda, programme and meeting rules of this Conference ?

Varia

We have now reached the topic "other business" on the agenda of the preparatory meeting.

Does anybody want to take the floor ?

Conference ASEP VI – Monday September 27, 2010

Welcome Speech by Mr. André FLAHAUT,

President of the Belgian House of Representatives

Dear members of the delegation, dear members of Parliament,

At the start of this meeting between the parliamentary instances of both continents and in my capacity as President of the Belgian House of Representatives, I first wish to welcome all of you.

The meeting that we will have during these three days seems essential to me as it reveals the intensity and dynamism of the bonds which unite us. Strong bonds based on mutual respect and a deep commitment to share the progress of our respective societies in the parliamentary field. Societies that enjoy great progress in many areas and that actively cooperate in sharing elements of knowledge.

As a matter of fact, this is only possible in a specific context, characterized by stability, exchanges and peace among nations. I think that it is of the utmost importance to strengthen our bonds with a view to moving toward greater convergence and sharing our knowledge and our assets. There are necessary steps in order to have our respective societies evolve toward a world of progress. Not progress achieved to the detriment of the peoples but by the peoples and for the peoples.

The financial crises that we have been through, and are currently going through, demonstrate the increasingly global nature of every major event. So we can state without fear of contradiction that any development or any crisis will only happen globally. This implies awareness of the phenomenon and common responsibilities of all peoples. Whether we are talking about the threat to the environment, food security or the financial system, our efforts to counter these threats need to be joint efforts. In economic terms too, as we live in a world of ever-accelerating trade, we need to coordinate our policy to a greater extent. We must resist together the threats that may inhibit this coordination process, as well as ensuring that this process serves the interests of our fellow citizens. Citizens whose liberties must become guarantees, such as receiving the same rights and obligations on one side of the globe as on the other. And this applies just as much in the fields of health, education, solidarity between individuals, the importance granted to local government or the essential role of women in our societies. These are points which are important to us, and which we wish to share with our friends from the Asian continent.

I would also like to draw your attention to a project which is very important to me, and which I think holds out totally new prospects. This idea, which I have already had the opportunity to present to many African and Asian friends, is based on a wish to share knowledge, to develop intelligent partnerships in all fields, mutual assistance and cooperation as well as security, always focused on people. I would like to emphasise one line of action which strikes me as of paramount importance and which holds out hope for our continents. I wish to speak about a line of action that would unite Europe, Asia and Africa. A line of action that is essential in view of the numerous exchanges of every kind that we have today, and which needs to put an end to a kind of competition between continents, whose peoples are the victims. It is in our shared interest.

Europe, Asia and Africa are closely linked, but sometimes in an excessively compartmentalised way, which may sometimes give rise to certain misunderstandings or even dumping, which do not benefit the whole community. I am arguing in favour of this triangle being part of a concept of partnership where exchanges occur between equals.

A way of assisting the implementation of this triangle is to increase the dynamism of inter-parliamentary friendship groups, which guarantee joint democratic evolution.

It is in this spirit, I believe, that we are meeting today to pool our best efforts to achieve prosperity and I would also dare to see with the prospect of happiness.

Asia and Europe – for whom Africa is the guarantor of their future – are home to half the world's population. This represents, regardless of the statistics, an enormous moral responsibility. A responsibility in every field, and a duty to talk to each other. This is exactly what we are doing today, and that is what we must continue to do. The progress of recent years shows clearly our strong determination to intensify cooperation, particularly due to the number of meetings between the parliaments of various Asian and European countries.

Dear guests, dear members, dear friends, I call on you to speak with total frankness and total freedom about the common aims that bring us here today.

Let us show the openness and mutual commitment to move towards greater solidarity and respect for the populations who give us our legitimacy today.

Thank you

Closing address by the First Deputy Speaker of the Senate of Belgium

Hon. Mr. Willy Demeyer

Dear Colleagues,
Excellencies,

As we conclude here our conference in the Plenary Hall of the House of Representatives, I would like to stress that this ASEP VI meeting was held in a positive and constructive spirit and it gathered a representative turnout from both our continents bringing together parliamentarians, experts, a future member parliament and guests to discuss important issues and challenges in the Asia-Europe co-operation.

I feel the process of globalization made it outdated for us to think in terms of East and West. In order to guarantee the further development of a certain quality of life, we must recognize this is not just the work of one person or state. It means an intense partnership and collaboration for many years to come. It is only by intense co-operation that we can achieve global prosperity, global solidarity and global sustainable development. This entails we cannot allow the recent economic and financial crisis to set us back. It is a challenge we must face together. By joining forces, we can soften the burden for our partner states who may have had more difficulties than others.

The agenda of this conference consisted of two main panels. First we addressed the improvement of global financial and economical good governance structures and the reform of international financial institutions. Secondly, we discussed a sustainable development with respect to economic development, social progress and environmental improvement. We place these two topics within the scope of economic challenges as a global opportunity to promote the quality of life of our populations. I believe it is only by intense debate we can provide the world of possible solutions.

The challenges posed by the increased global population, environmental degradation, rapid resource depletion and weakening ecological carrying capacity have become more prominent in many of our countries and this is a grave challenge and a pressing task for us to achieve sustainable development.

Judging by the quality of your interventions and debate, I am really pleased that these discussions we had during the meeting will be of great significance in contributing to the ASEM summit on 4 and 5 October.

In light of this, I deem it important that we, the parliamentarians from Europe and Asia, have to discuss the issues on the ASEM agenda and other pressing issues that affect our countries. This ASEM 8 summit in Brussels will provide an opportunity for Asian and European Leaders to elaborate on forging a new partnership which goes further than mere sustainable development and the effectiveness of world governance structures, we have to go beyond and ensure that the world economic system develops in a balanced fashion to ensure fair globalisation, which brings benefits and prosperity to all, and to foster economic competitiveness both in Asia and Europe, with respect to environment and social standards.

Furthermore, we should dare to broaden our scope of exchanges into new territories, possibly even looking at organizational and procedural opportunities not only to structure our interactions in a more systematic way, but also to bring the whole ASEM process closer to the population.

Therefore I am glad that our Finnish colleagues and chair of the previous ASEP 4 Conference proposed to develop the ASEP process further, so as to strengthen the leadership and to follow up mechanisms of the meetings, as well as to monitor how the governments have worked with issues ASEP has given a priority to. We have to be active and visible also in between ASEP meetings. An ASEP leadership based on the host country as chair assisted by the previous and the future host is an excellent idea and this will certainly give more importance to the continuity of the work done.

Dear Colleagues,

You maybe know that as far as parliamentary issues are concerned that I am a great supporter of what we call the parliamentary diplomacy. Parliamentarians have for decades been present and active in the international arena. 'Parliamentary diplomacy', however, has only quite recently become the common term used to describe the wide range of international activities undertaken by members of parliament in order to increase mutual understanding between countries, to improve scrutiny of government, to represent their people better, and to ncrease the democratic legitimacy of inter-governmental institutions.

We as parliamentarians, we can make sometimes a difference and we must play an active role to develop good relations and mutual understanding between our countries. Let us therefore seize the opportunity offered by the ASEM instruments to enhance and broaden our Asia-Europe dialogue. I really look forward to the upcoming ASEP chair and remain with the whole Belgian Delegation available to the Laotian delegation in order to guarantee this necessary cohesion and continuity in our Parliamentary Partnership.

Final Declaration of the 6th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting

Brussels, Belgium, 27 September, 2010

1. The Sixth Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership meeting (ASEP VI) was held in Brussels, Belgium on September 26-28, 2010.
2. At the invitation of Mr. Danny PIETERS, Speaker of the Senate, and Mr. André FLAHAUT, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliamentarians from Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the European Parliament attended the Meeting. The European Commission, the Asia-Europe Foundation, the Asia-Europe Business Forum and the Asia-Europe People's Forum were invited to attend the Meeting as Guests of the Host Parliament.
3. Mr Steven VANACKERE, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, who represented Mr. Yves LETERME, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium, and Mr. Herman VAN ROMPUY, President of the European Council, addressed the Meeting respectively as host and chair of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 8) to be held in Brussels on October 4-5, 2010.
4. The host Speakers warmly welcomed the Parliamentarians and Guests to the Meeting as well as the delegations from the House and the Senate of Australia, the House of Representatives of New Zealand and the Russian State Duma and Federation Council who were invited as observers.
5. ASEP Parliamentarians expressed their deep sympathies over the casualties and victims of the fires in the Russian Federation, the floods in Pakistan and the landslides in China. They expressed the hope that life in the affected areas will soon be brought back to normal.
6. ASEP Parliamentarians expressed their commitment to peace, stability and prosperity in the ASEM area. They agreed that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and their means of delivery, constitutes a threat to international peace and security and is a common concern. They reaffirmed their commitment to the objective of a world without nuclear weapons.

7. ASEP Parliamentarians recalled the previous five Meetings in Strasbourg (1996), Manila (2002), Hue City (2004), Helsinki (2006) and Beijing (2008), and held comprehensive, in-depth and fruitful discussions on a wide range of issues of shared interest and concern.

Economic challenges as a global opportunity to promote the quality of life of our populations

8. ASEP Parliamentarians deemed it important to take up the economic challenges and the economic and financial crisis as an opportunity to achieve greater wellbeing and dignity for all citizens, to raise the quality of life and to address what really matters to our societies and populations in Europe and Asia. This includes a reflection on how we can set up effective financial and economic world governance structures as well as on how we can guarantee social responsibility, food security, a sustainable economic development, a society based on the rule of law, education, energy security and environmental excellence.
9. Asia and Europe should move towards a more comprehensive, equal and mutually beneficial strategic partnership for sustainable development.

Sustainable Development

10. ASEP Parliamentarians reiterated and re-emphasised the achievements of the ASEP IV Declaration in Helsinki, where the following was stated: "ASEP Parliamentarians recognise the fact that all countries have a right to economic development. Therefore, sustainable development needs major and sustained efforts to promote economic growth within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by addressing and, where appropriate, de-linking economic growth from environmental degradation through improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources." They also underlined that all countries have a right to self-sufficiency regarding food.
11. ASEP Parliamentarians recalled the ASEP IV Helsinki Declaration stating that improved energy security and access to reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy services contribute to the eradication of poverty as called for in the Millennium Development Goals. Developed countries should take the lead in furthering sustainable development and assisting developing countries with this purpose both financially and technically.
12. ASEP Parliamentarians also recalled the ASEP V Beijing Declaration that reaffirmed the positive role of dialogue among cultures and civilisations in eradicating poverty, protecting the environment and promoting sustainable economic growth and common prosperity. They called on ASEM Partners

to work together, in a spirit of inclusiveness and dialogue, for a world featuring harmonious co-existence, equality, mutual respect and common development of different cultures and civilisations.

13. ASEP Parliamentarians welcomed the outcome of the ASEM 7 Summit in Beijing in October 2008 when ASEM partners agreed to strengthen co-operation in a mutually beneficial manner and to work towards a win-win solution contributing positively to sustainable development.
14. ASEP Parliamentarians noted that economic development, social progress and environmental protection are three mutually reinforcing and interdependent pillars of sustainable development and emphasised that the Millennium Development Goals, climate change and energy security, as well as social cohesion, are issues calling for special attention in achieving sustainable development.
15. ASEP Parliamentarians took note of the recommendations produced by the 2nd ASEM Development Conference held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in May 2010 and welcomed Belgium's proposal to devote a specific preparatory event involving all ASEM partners to the topic of sustainable development, with a view to thoroughly prepare the coming ASEM 8 Summit statement on this issue.

a) Social Progress

16. ASEP Parliamentarians stressed that social cohesion rests on solidarity and on the widest possible participation of people in the creation of prosperity.
17. ASEP Parliamentarians took note of the ILO "Global Jobs Pact" of June 2009, supported by Asian and European ASEM members, which aims at creating jobs, protecting workers and stimulating economic recovery. ASEP Parliamentarians reiterated their support for the Pact and encouraged members to adopt its policy measures to ease the impact of the crisis and accelerate recovery in employment. More generally, social development is dependent upon the preservation of dignifying working conditions and respect for ILO labour standards.
18. ASEP Parliamentarians hence recognised that open consultative labour relations or equivalent mechanisms should be encouraged, for they generate mutual understanding between labour forces and employers about issues of productivity, working conditions and remuneration.
19. ASEP Parliamentarians deemed it important to take care of the protection of workers, particularly in times of crisis, through sustainable social security schemes.

Furthermore, it is of structural importance to ensure the long-term inclusiveness of labour markets. This requires sustained action by ASEM

Partners to promote education, job training, lifelong skill and career development tools and specific measures for the most vulnerable in order to help workers move into new job opportunities.

20. ASEP Parliamentarians looked forward to the ASEM Labour Ministers' meeting to be held in Leiden, Netherlands, in December 2010. This conference will build on the achievements of the ASEM dialogue in the employment and social fields, and will focus on how to turn the financial and economic crisis into an opportunity for creating jobs and strengthening social development at the global level.

21. ASEP Parliamentarians called for development co-operation to be strengthened through new and additional financial resources as well as through Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the bilateral and multilateral frameworks, in order to address the social dimension of development in developing countries. ASEP Parliamentarians called on developed countries to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0,7 % of their Gross National Income (GNI) for ODA, provided that international bodies exercise stricter control on the use of these funds.

ASEP Parliamentarians support the development of new co-operation strategies based on the trilateral co-operation model existing between the EU, Asia and Africa in order to promote between ASEM Partners a dynamic partnership that will encourage solidarity and grant priority to education and health.

22. The ASEM partners need to strengthen international co-operation for full and timely attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by, inter alia, pursuing the goal of poverty eradication based on the policies and strategies of developing countries, according to the Doha Strategy.

23. ASEP Parliamentarians considered that, in order to achieve economic development and social progress, it is necessary to respect fundamental rights and freedoms, especially the freedom from poverty and the right to choose the way of development.

24. ASEM Parliamentarians stress the need to give priority to gender equality and empowerment of women. There must be progress on reduction of maternal mortality and improving maternal and reproductive health. They totally condemn the awful practice of abuse of women and children as a weapon of war.

25. ASEP Parliamentarians insisted to guarantee the promotion of women's rights in every human society. Gender equity naturally means the promotion of women's status in the political, economical, cultural and social fields.

26. ASEP Parliamentarians affirmed that cultural diversity is a fundamental feature of world cultures and constitutes a true source of innovation, inspiration and progress for humankind; they also emphasized that respect

for, protection and promotion of cultural identities and diversity, together with dialogue among civilizations, have been a driving force for development, putting special emphasis on gender equality.

b) Economic Development

27. ASEP Parliamentarians recognised that private sources of demand must be re-established as the main drivers of growth across countries, and called on ASEM partners to encourage structural adjustment to achieve this, including through increased consumer consumption and confidence, nourished by increasing wages, market liberalisation and innovation of products, services and production processes.

28. ASEP Parliamentarians also agreed on the need to enhance co-operation in the fields of technological innovation, science and ICT so as to narrow the digital divide and ensure sustainable development for all ASEM partners. ASEP Parliamentarians considered that transportation offers specific opportunities to expand economic relations. Hence, they deemed it necessary to provide remedies to this economic sector suffering from specific choking points. Possible solutions could consist in developing infrastructure, simplifying procedures and promoting multimodal schemes and further liberalisation.

ASEP Parliamentarians noted the past and constructive activities within the different working groups under the Trade Facilitation Action Plan and the Investment Promotion Action Plan. They welcomed the progress made in the ASEM customs working group, as highlighted in the Heraklion Declaration adopted by the 8th ASEM Customs Director Generals (DGs)/Commissioners meeting. In particular, they appreciated its achievements in the area of trade facilitation (i.e. establishing a dialogue with the ASEM business community, TFAP on customs matters) and confirmed the need to further step up customs IPR enforcement and cooperation amongst ASEM members.

ASEP Parliamentarians shared the view that co-operation on economic development should be strengthened, following what was decided upon at the 1st High Level ASEM Conference in Manila, Philippines, in April 2009.

c) Environmental Protection and Climate Change

29. ASEP Parliamentarians remembered former ASEP Declarations, stressing that environmental protection mobilises increasingly with combating climate change, recognised as the most pressing threat, which has to be continuously addressed after the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen of December 2009.

30. Following what was examined at the 1st ASEM Energy Ministerial in Brussels, Belgium, June 2009, ASEP Parliamentarians also encouraged energy saving, energy efficiency and conversion to renewable, carbon-free, sources of energy to be pursued. They can be supported by market policies that should however at the same time preserve the energy security of the respective countries.
31. ASEP Parliamentarians also noted that human activity affects other aspects of the environment as well. These too need to be addressed. In practice, the involvement of civil society in the design and implementation of protection measures goes a long way in changing people's attitudes. A more widespread availability and adoption of green technologies would likewise help preserve the earth's resources and environment for future generations and perhaps open an era of new 'green growth' opportunities with a positive effect on economic development. In this regard, the developed countries shall fulfil their commitment of technology transfer under the UNFCCC.
32. They supported in this context the Green Economy Initiative of the United Nations Environment Program which should ensure that stimulus packages are used to promote investments for sustainable long-term growth, creation of decent jobs, and poverty reduction.

Effective Financial and Economic World Governance Structures

33. ASEP Parliamentarians reiterated the conclusions of the ASEP V Conference in Beijing in June 2008 when participants already "called on ASEM partners to increase dialogue and co-operation on financial policies to jointly safeguard stability of the regional financial markets" and to encourage "finance ministers of Asia and Europe to explore effective measures to deepen financial co-operation between the two regions".
34. ASEP Parliamentarians reaffirmed the engagement taken by ASEM leaders at the ASEM 7 Summit in Beijing in October 2008, who "called on the international community to continue to strengthen coordination and co-operation and take effective and available economic and financial measures in a comprehensive way to restore market confidence, stabilize global financial markets and promote global economic growth."
35. ASEP Parliamentarians welcomed the conclusions of the ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting in Madrid in April 2010 dedicated to the theme of effective global governance.
36. ASEP Parliamentarians agreed that the international community needs to enhance an open, equitable, rule-based and non discriminatory multilateral trade system embodied in the WTO, recognising that such a system is the most effective way in developing trade relations and increasing economic opportunities among ASEM partners. ASEP Parliamentarians noted in

particular the need for practical co-operation initiatives aimed at expanding trade and investment, and promoting partnership and co-operation between ASEM partners in areas of mutual benefit including, inter alia, culture, education, health, finance, transportation, energy, science, high technology, agriculture, forestry and fishery, information and telecommunication, environmental engineering and tourism.

37. ASEP Parliamentarians insisted on pushing for concrete results in reforming global financial and economic governance. They deemed it necessary to make full use of the G20 platform for strengthening macroeconomic policy co-ordination, and to move forward the WTO Doha Round negotiations to achieve ambitious, balanced and prompt conclusion to the Doha Development Agenda, consistent with its mandate, built on the progress achieved, including with regards to modalities. They encouraged ASEM partners to stand firm against all forms of trade protectionism, so as to prevent a relapse in the present global economic recovery, as well as to harmonize rules on workers' rights and the environment.

38. ASEP Parliamentarians underlined the importance of implementing as early as possible the reform targets for the IMF and World Bank regarding their role and mandate. They stressed the need to improve the existing decision-making procedures and mechanisms in international financial institutions, to reflect the relative weights of their members in the world economy, which have changed substantially in view of the strong growth in dynamic emerging and developing economies, and to preserve the stability of the international monetary and financial system. They also stressed the importance of ensuring that the quantitative target of IMF quota reform is met before the G20 Summit in Seoul.

They supported the reform process of the international financial supervision system under the auspices of the IMF, the G20 and the Financial Stability Board. They recognised the need for more even-handed and effective surveillance of systemically important firms, international capital flows and financial markets.

Financial companies have to shoulder their own responsibility in the current situation in order to adjust to evolving market conditions and to the new supervisory arrangements and regulatory environment currently under construction. ASEP Parliamentarians noted that taxes on financial institutions are being introduced in European countries; they also noted that there are a number of possible policy approaches regarding financial sector contributions.

39. ASEP Parliamentarians welcomed the next G20 meeting, which is planned in Seoul –the first to take place in a non G8 country– in November 2010, where important decisions will be taken on measures required to face the global financial and economic crisis.

40. ASEP parliamentarians welcomed the programs for economic revival developed by ASEM partners. The EU 2020 strategy, which focuses on

5 targets (employment, research and development, climate change and energy, education, combating poverty), should create the best conditions for stable economic growth with a balanced distribution of profits. Similarly, ASEP parliamentarians emphasised the importance of a closer economic co-operation in Asia i.a. through promoting regional integration between ASEAN and FTA partners comprising Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand, and the implementation of the ASEAN Charter which is envisaging the creation by 2015 of an ASEAN single free-trade area for the region encompassing 500 million people.

41. ASEP Parliamentarians reminded that stimulus packages still sustain economic activity in various countries. These packages have engendered significant public deficits in some countries with consequences for the world economy as a whole. They emphasised the importance of good management of national budget deficits and public debts in order to prevent a new economic crisis and to re-launch the economic growth, also considering the risk that a premature restrictive fiscal policy might cause to the global economic recovery. International aid plans, financed by the European Union or by Asian multilateral institutions, must be encouraged in order to provide support - if needed - to countries of the ASEM partnership who are confronted with huge public deficits.
42. ASEP Parliamentarians encouraged enhanced regional and sub-regional integration processes between ASEM partners, consistent with WTO rules and commitments, including through regional development banks, regional trade arrangements, regional free trade agreements and regional financial and monetary integration initiatives – such as the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation Agreement of ASEAN +3, the Asian Bond Markets Initiative and the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism – as part of a global coordinated efficient response to deal with the current crisis. They underlined the sensitivity of regional and sub-regional institutions to the specific needs of their constituencies, and the greater equitable representation of developing countries within these bodies.
43. ASEP Parliamentarians welcomed Belgium's initiative to hold a dynamic Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF) in parallel with the ASEM 8 Summit in Brussels on 4-5 October 2010, encouraging economic co-operation between the business sectors of Asia and Europe. AEBF 12 will focus on the financial sector and themes such as financial stability, the integrated market for financial services and the growing role of Asia on the world financial stage will be on the agenda.
44. ASEP Parliamentarians encouraged the coming ASEM 8 Summit to produce a statement on ASEM initiatives to address the issue of economic and financial global governance.

Piracy at sea

45. ASEP Parliamentarians noted with concern that piracy at sea is taking on disturbing proportions on the routes linking Europe and Asia, particularly in the waters off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden. This can have far reaching consequences in addition to the obvious disruption of trade between Asia and Europe. A joined action of ASEM Members to fight against this scourge would symbolise the efficiency of ASEM partnership. Therefore, they welcomed the results of the ASEM Seminar on Piracy at Sea (Brussels, May 2010), which provided a basis for further discussion by ASEM Partners in addressing this specific issue.

People To People Relations

46. ASEP Parliamentarians agreed that people to people relations are the ultimate foundation of long-lasting and robust relationships between Asia and Europe. Leaders should consider measures to build and expand the useful work performed by ASEP, ASEM's only established institution. ASEP Parliamentarians appreciated the fact that a permanent goal of ASEM is to bring an ever growing number of business travellers, tourists, academicians, students, opinion makers, civil society representatives and local and regional leaders to know and understand each other better.

47. ASEP Parliamentarians welcomed the expansion of academic co-operation under the care of the Ministers of Education and of relevant organisations. They applauded the holding of Bologna Policy fora that stimulate dialogue on mobility, quality assurance, credit recognition and credit transfer, building on the success of programs such as the Erasmus Mundus and the ASEM-DUO fellowship programs. They strongly supported the establishment of the ASEM Education Secretariat in Bonn, Germany, which will co-ordinate ASEM educational activities.

48. Similarly, ASEP Parliamentarians encouraged progress in cultural co-operation and exchanges, at the behest of the Ministers for Culture who now meet regularly and welcomed the outcome of the ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting held in Poznan, Poland, on 9-10 September 2010.

49. Besides, ASEP Parliamentarians welcomed the fact that interfaith and interreligious dialogue has contributed much to bring Europeans and Asians closer together on an agenda of tolerance and mutual understanding, as exemplified by the 5th ASEM Interfaith dialogue organised in Seoul, Korea, in September 2009 and the 6th ASEM Interfaith dialogue held in Toledo/Madrid, Spain, in April 2010. Efforts need to be made globally to combat phobia, particularly the attitudes amongst some people against all religions.

Reinforcement and Enlargement of our Asia-Europe Partnership

50. ASEP Parliamentarians agreed that a continuous reinforcement of the Asia-Europe partnership is mutually beneficial and guarantees the continuity in the ASEP process.

Therefore ASEP Parliamentarians expressed their wish to develop the ASEP process further, to strengthen the leadership and to establish follow-up mechanisms of the meetings, as well as to monitor how the governments have worked with issues ASEP has given a priority to, and to be active and visible in between ASEP meetings. They also emphasised the importance of the following priorities: a leadership for ASEP based on the host country as chair, assisted by the previous and the future host, the report by the host country at the ASEP meeting on the progress made in the ASEM process in between ASEP meetings and the encouragement of member parliaments to take measures to improve the continuity of the ASEP work on a national level.


51. ASEP Parliamentarians believed it could be useful for ASEM to reassess its working methods in order to pursue equality of partnership, open process, dialogue leading to co-operation and to connected action and informality, as practised so far.

52. ASEP Parliamentarians stressed the importance of a broad dialogue between European and Asian countries in facing common challenges and therefore encouraged signs of interest of candidate partners willing to join ASEP. ASEP parliamentarians highlighted the importance that the ASEM convictions are shared by the largest possible population.

Final clauses

53. ASEP Parliamentarians asked the Belgian ASEP chairs to transmit the present declaration to the forthcoming ASEM summit to be held in Brussels on 4 and 5 October 2010.

54. ASEP Parliamentarians agreed to hold the next ASEP in 2012 in Vientiane, in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and looked forward to their reunion in two years' time.



THE SIXTH ASIA-EUROPE PARLIAMENTARY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Brussels, September, 26-28, 2010

Date last modified : 05/05/2010

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Adopted by ASEP IV
5 May 2006

- I. MEMBERSHIP : [Rule 1](#)
- II. PARTICIPATION : [Rule 2](#); [Rule 3](#); [Rule 4](#)
- III. FREQUENCY OF ASEP MEETINGS : [Rule 5](#)
- IV. AGENDA : [Rule 6](#); [Rule 7](#)
- V. SESSIONS : [Rule 8](#); [Rule 9](#); [Rule 10](#)
- VI. OFFICERS : [Rule 11](#); [Rule 12](#); [Rule 13](#); [Rule 14](#); [Rule 15](#); [Rule 16](#)
- VII. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS : [Rule 17](#); [Rule 18](#); [Rule 19](#); [Rule 20](#); [Rule 21](#); [Rule 22](#); [Rule 23](#); [Rule 24](#); [Rule 25](#); [Rule 26](#)
- VIII. OUTCOME OF THE MEETING : [Rule 27](#); [Rule 28](#); [Rule 29](#)
- IX. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF THE RULES : [Rule 30](#); [Rule 31](#);

PREAMBLE

The Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP) Meeting is part of the overall Asia - Europe partnership process.

The Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP) Meeting shall have the following as its objectives:

- a. To serve as a forum for interparliamentary contacts, exchanges and diplomacy among parliaments, and to promote mutual understanding among the people and countries of Asia and Europe.
- b. To provide a link between parliaments of Asia and Europe and ASEM, and thereby to make an active parliamentary contribution to the ASEM process and in particular to Summit Meetings.

ASEP meetings shall be regulated by the following Rules of Procedure:

I. MEMBERSHIP

Rule 1

In principle, members of ASEP shall be national parliaments from all ASEM member countries, and the European Parliament.

The membership of the national parliaments from countries joining ASEM after the adoption of the present Rules of Procedure shall become effective once confirmed by the subsequent ASEP meeting.

II. PARTICIPATION

Rule 2

Member parliaments have the prerogative to send delegations and to designate their respective heads of delegation. Official delegates have to be members of parliament. The host parliament of each ASEP meeting shall decide on the maximum number

of official delegates.

Rule 3

Guests of the host parliament may be invited subject to adequate prior notification to all ASEP member parliaments and provided that no objection is raised by the latter within one month of the notification. Guests may attend all public sessions of the Meeting. With the consent of the Meeting, a guest may be invited to make a statement.

Rule 4

A non-member parliament that makes a request, or is recommended by an ASEP member to attend may be accepted as an observer subject to adequate prior notification by the host parliament to all ASEP members and provided that no objection is raised by the latter within one month of the notification. The decision on such a request or recommendation shall be taken on a meeting by meeting basis. Observers may attend all public sessions of the Meeting. With the consent of the Meeting, an observer may be invited to make a statement.

III. FREQUENCY OF ASEP MEETINGS

Rule 5

ASEP meetings shall normally be convened on a regular bi-annual basis alternately in Asia and in Europe before the ASEM Summit. The parliament of the ASEM member state hosting the ASEM Summit shall have a priority to host the ASEP meeting the same year.

IV. AGENDA

Rule 6

The host parliament shall, not less than six weeks before the opening of the Meeting, draw up the draft agenda for the ASEP Meeting with issues relating to the main themes and focus of the ASEM process as well as issues of special interest to Asia-Europe interparliamentary diplomacy and communicate it with the related documents to all ASEP member parliaments.

Rule 7

Member parliaments that intend to present modifications or additions to the draft agenda should transmit their proposals to the host parliament not less than four weeks before the opening of the Meeting.

V. SESSIONS

Rule 8

The ASEP Meeting shall be structured as follows: the Inaugural Ceremony, followed by the first Plenary session to elect the Meeting's officers, to adopt the Agenda, organization of proceedings, and programme; Panel discussions; the last Plenary session in particular to adopt the Meeting's Final Declaration right before the Closing Ceremony.

Rule 9

Panel discussions shall be separately held focusing on respective topics of the Meeting's Agenda. The list of lead speakers and rapporteurs for each Panel discussion shall be established by the host parliament after due consultations. Lead speakers and rapporteurs for each Panel discussion shall be from both Asia and Europe.

Rule 10

The host parliament shall preside over a preparatory meeting prior to the opening of the ASEP Meeting among heads of delegation (or their representative) plus one other official delegate to discuss and agree on organizational issues such as the Agenda, election of the Meeting's officers, administrative arrangements, organization of proceedings etc.

VI. OFFICERS

President and Vice-Presidents

Rule 11

The President of the parliament of the host country shall be the President of the ASEP Meeting. The President of the parliament that is hosting the subsequent ASEP Meeting takes office after the conclusion of the ASEM Summit.

Rule 12

The President of the Meeting or his/her representative from the host parliament shall open and close the Meeting, chair plenary sessions, ensure observance of the rules of procedure and maintenance of order, accord the right to speak, rule on points of order, put questions to a discussion and announce decisions reached during the Meeting. He/she may propose the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time allowed to speakers and on the number of times a representative of each participating parliament may speak on an item. The President's decisions on these matters shall be final.

Rule 13

The head of delegation of each participating parliament shall be designated as Vice-President of the Meeting. The President may conduct consultations with the Vice-Presidents on procedural as well as substantive matters at any time during the Meeting if he deems necessary.

Co-chairs of panel discussions

Rule 14

There shall be Co-chairs to conduct debate in Panel discussions. Each Panel discussion shall be co-chaired by representatives from both Asia and Europe. The list of Co-chairs shall be established by the host parliament after due consultations.

Co-chairs of panel discussions

Rule 15

The Drafting Committee shall be chaired by the host parliament.

Rapporteurs

Rule 16

There shall be rapporteurs to elaborate reports of Plenary sessions as well as Panel discussions. The list of Rapporteurs shall be established by the host parliament after due consultations.

VII. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Sessions

Rule 17

As a rule, sessions of the ASEP Meeting shall be public. If he/she deems necessary, the President of the Meeting may propose to sit in closed session. The Meeting in plenary shall decide thereon by consensus.

Speeches

Rule 18

1. The President/Co-chairs/Chair shall grant the right to speak at the Plenary sessions, Panel discussions or Drafting Committee meetings. As a rule, the President/Co-chairs/Chair shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.

2. To ensure the efficient conduct of business and broad participation in the debates, the host parliament may decide on a time limit for interventions and inform the preparatory meeting.

3. Debate shall be confined to the questions pertaining to the subject and focus of the Meeting. The President/Co-chairs/Chair may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

List of speakers

Rule 19

In order to ensure orderly, efficient and dynamic debate, the Chair/Co-Chair of the meeting shall establish at his/her own discretion a list of speakers taking into consideration, inter alia, regional balance, the need to give precedence to delegates of ASEP member parliaments taking the floor for the first time and relevance of the speaker's country to the issue at hand. Speakers are encouraged to register with the Secretariat before or during the sessions. They may also raise their hands to ask for the floor during the debate.

Rule 20

During the course of a debate the President/Co-chairs may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the delegates, declare the list closed.

Decision making

Rule 21

Adoption of decisions shall be by consensus among official delegations.

Rule 22

The Chair may consider a delegation's request that differing opinions on an issue be recorded in a relevant document of the meeting.

Language

Rule 23

English shall be the working language of the Meeting. Participating parliaments that would like the proceedings to be interpreted in their preferred language shall have the responsibility to bring their own interpreters at their own expense. The host country is to provide the simultaneous interpretation facilities.

Secretariat

Rule 24

The host country shall set up a Secretariat to provide adequate support services for the Meeting.

Documents

Rule 25

Copies of official documents, reports or statements made in the Meeting shall be distributed promptly. Only the Secretariat is allowed to disseminate documents on the meeting premises.

Expenses

Rule 26

The host parliament shall bear the cost of organizing the Meeting and the delegations shall cover their own expenses for attending the Meeting.

VIII. OUTCOME OF THE MEETING

Rule 27

At the end of the last plenary session, the Meeting shall adopt one final document - the ASEP Declaration reflecting the main thrust of the debates, the Meeting's decisions as well as its recommendations to the upcoming ASEM Summit. The host parliament shall submit a draft declaration to all member parliaments three weeks before the Meeting. Member parliaments are encouraged to submit their contribution to the first draft final document prior to the Meeting to be incorporated to the extent possible into the consolidated draft final document. The ASEP Declaration approved shall be transmitted to all member parliaments and to the upcoming ASEM Summit.

Rule 28

The Meeting shall set up a Drafting Committee to elaborate the drafts of the Meeting's final document for submission to and subsequent approval by the Plenary Session. This committee shall be composed of representatives from the host parliament and

from all interested delegations. Informal consultations may be held to ensure the Meeting's final outcome.

Rule 29

The Summary Report of the ASEP Meeting shall be prepared by the host parliament with the help of relevant rapporteurs. The Summary Report shall be circulated to all delegations for amendments.

IX. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF THE RULES

Rule 30

The Meeting shall adopt and amend its Rules by consensus.

Rule 31

Proposals for amending the Rules of the ASEP Meeting shall be formulated in writing and sent to the parliament of the host country at least three months before the Meeting. The Parliament of the host country shall communicate such proposals immediately to all ASEP member parliaments. It shall also, if necessary, communicate to all ASEP member parliaments any proposals for sub-amendments at least one month before the ASEP Meeting.

Consideration of any request to amend the Rules shall be included in the agenda of the next Meeting.

Unless otherwise specified with the approval of the Meeting, amendments to these rules shall enter into force at the following Meeting.



ASEP VI
THE SIXTH ASIA-EUROPA PARLIAMENTARY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

26-28 September 2010
 Brussels, Belgium
 Federal Parliament of Belgium

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

DELEGATIONS

Belgium

FLAHAUT André, Speaker of the House of Representatives
 DEMEYER Willy, First Deputy Speaker of the Senate
 DEPREZ Gérard, MP, Senate
 DE CROO Herman, MP, House of Representatives
 DEWINTER Filip, MP, Senate
 MORIAU Patrick, MP, House of Representatives
 COLÉN Alexandra, MP, House of Representatives
 SEVENHANS Luc, MP, Senate
 TUYBENS Bruno, MP, House of Representatives
 MATZ Vanessa, MP, Senate
 ZRIHEN Olga, MP, Senate
 BREMS Eva, MP, House of Representatives
 VAN ROMPUY Peter, MP, Senate

Bulgaria

SHOPOV Pavel, MP, National Assembly
 ASENOVA Anna, Permanent Representative of the Bulgarian National Assembly to the EU
 SIMOVA Mariela, Interpreter

China

NAN Zhenzhong, MP, National People's Congress
 LI Wei, MP, National People's Congress
 WANG Fei, Secretary of Mr. Nan, National People's Congress
 WANG Aihua, Assistant, National People's Congress
 LIU Fang, Assistant, National People's Congress
 HOU Dong, Assistant, National People's Congress
 GENG Jiamin, Assistant, National People's Congress

Cyprus

MAVROHANNAS Klavdios, MP, House of Representatives

Denmark

MOELLER Flemming, MP, Folketinget

European Parliament

BELET Ivo, MEP, Belgium

MENENDEZ del VALLE Emilio, MEP, Spain

CUTAŞ George, MEP, Romania

CERNES Ana Maria, Assistant to Mr. Cutaş

BODEN Tim, Administrator Asia Unit

Finland

KÄÄRIÄINEN Seppo, First Deputy Speaker, Parliament

SAARINEN Matti, MP, Parliament

LINDSTRÖM Guy, Deputy Director International Department, Parliament

Greece

ALEVRAS Athanassios, MP, Hellenic Parliament

NIKOLOPOULOS Nikolaos, MP, Hellenic Parliament

Hungary

BALLA Mihály, MP, National Assembly

BALOGH Timea, Advisor of EU Department, National Assembly

Indonesia

NUR WAHID Hidayat, MP, House of Representatives

DANUSUBROTO Sidharto, MP, House of Representatives

HASANUDDIN Ma'mur, MP, House of Representatives

SULISTO Adisatria Suryo, MP, House of Representatives

YAHYA Tantowi, MP, House of Representatives

SHOMBING Apul Mauli Pratishawan, Advisor, House of Representatives

WIRENGJURIT Dian, Advisor, House of Representatives

SUTHARSA Tatang, Secretary, House of Representatives

WIDYANA Anne, Assistant to Secretary, House of Representatives

Italy

TORAZZI Alberto, MP, Chamber of Deputies

DUILIO Ercolino, MP, Chamber of Deputies

CALABRO Maria Teresa, Advisor, Chamber of Deputies

Japan

MORIMOTO Tetsuo, MP, House of Representatives
 KONDO Mitsue, MP, House of Representatives
 KATO Akira, Interparliamentary Relations Division, House of Representatives
 OMOTO Takahiro, Assistant director, House of Representatives
 GRAUMANN-FUJII Keiko, Interpreter
 HIGUCHI Mariko, Interpreter
 OYAMADA Nana, Interpreter
 UME Kayo, Interpreter

Laos

SAYAKONE Khamsing, MP, National Assembly
 THANTHAVONGSA Phetla, Chief of Interparliamentary Relations division, National Assembly

Malaysia

ABDULLAH Muhammad Olian, MP, Senate
 BRODI Doris Sophia, MP, Senate
 MOHD KHALID Izuddin, Secretary of delegation, Senate

Poland

KAZMIERCZAK Jan, MP, Sejm

Portugal

CASA NOVA Maria da Conceição, MP, Assembleia da Republica
 CESÁRIO José, MP, Assembleia da Republica
 DIAS PINHEIRO Bruno, Permanent representative of the Portugese Parliament to the EU

Republic of Korea

HONG Sa Duk, MP, National Assembly
 PARK Young-Sun, MP, National Assembly
 CHOE Chan Kyoung, Programme Coordinator, National Assembly
 CHUN YoonJong, Supporting staff, Embassy of the Republic of Korea
 IM Soyoung, Interpreter
 KO Eun Kyeong, Interpreter

Russia

YAZEV Valery, Deputy Speaker, State Duma
 ZHIDKIKH Vladimir, MP, Council of the Federation
 KUPREEVA Alexandra, Senior Expert International Department, Council of the Federation
 NN, Interpreter

Singapore

NAIR Hri Kumar, MP, Parliament
 SEAH Kiang Peng, MP, Parliament
 HARON Mohamad Isa, Secretary of delegation, Parliament

Slovenia

ZIHERL Milenko, MP, National Assembly

KLEVA Mojca, Representative of the National Assembly in Brussels

Spain

LUCAS Juan José, Second Vice-President, Senate

ALVAREZ Ana, Deputy Secretary General, Senate

FEO KUTSCH Katia, Interpreter

VERGARA BACCI di CAPACI Maria Stella, Interpreter

Thailand

KAEWMECHAI Samart, First Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives

TANBANJONG Phairoj, MP, House of Representatives

KRAIRIKSH Pikulkeaw, MP, Senate

SRISUNG Kornchanok, Advisor to 1st Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives

CHANCHARASWAT Kran, Foreign Relations Officer, House of Representatives

United Kingdom

Lord SHEIKH Mohamed, MP, House of Lords

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

LI Wei, MP, National People's Congress of China

YAHYA Tantowi, MP, House of Representatives of Indonesia

RICHELLE Koos, Director-general of EuropeAid Co-operation Office, European Commission

KORTLEVEN Jozef, Advisor-general at the Belgian Ministry of Finance

GUESTS

VAN ROMPUY Herman, President of the European Council

VANACKERE Steven, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium

GEORGIEV Hristo, Ambassador, Embassy of Bulgaria

GÓMEZ-MÚGICA SANZ, Ambassador, Embassy of Spain

HEM Saem, Ambassador, Embassy of Cambodia

HUSSEIN HANIFF Dato, Ambassador, Embassy of Malaysia

YOKOTA Jun, Ambassador, Embassy of Japan

de CROMBRUGGHE Bertrand, Head ASEM Team Belgium

DE JONGHE Ann, Advocacy Officer World Solidarity, AEPF Forum

FABRIZI Sem, Cabinet of the President of the European Council

HANNA William, Head of Unit, EuropeAid Co-operation Office

HAZURA RIDZUAN Rafiqqa, First Secretary Embassy of Malaysia

KATAYAMA Kazuyuki, Minister, Embassy of Japan

Guests (continued)

KUSTININGSIH Sri Hartanti, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Indonesia
 LAMBERT Paul, ASEM Team Belgium
 MAHIEU Henk, Deputy Head of Cabinet of the Belgian Minister of Finance
 MAÎTRE Estelle, EuropeAid Co-operation Office
 MARSONO Conakry, First Secretary, Embassy of Indonesia
 MOLLARD Lynette, Parliamentary Relations Officer, Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia
 NGUYEN Quoc Khanh, Deputy Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation Singapore
 NOBELS Louis-Alfons, ASEM Team Belgium
 PAMBIANCO Monica, EuropeAid Co-operation Office
 PRIATNA Pipien L.E., Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Indonesia
 SANYOTO Bismo, Asia coordinator World Solidarity, AEPF Forum
 SAR Mora, President CFSWF Confederation, AEPF Forum
 SIREGAR Martua, AEPF Forum
 VAN MIDDELAAR Luuk, Cabinet of the President of the President of the European Council
 VERSTRAETEN Bart, Advocacy Officer World Solidarity, AEPF Forum

SECRETARIAT ASEPVI

JIRIKOFF Pierre, First Advisor, House of Representatives
 CARDON de LICHTBUER Thibaut, Deputy advisor, Senate
 VANDENBOSH Ann, Deputy advisor, House of Representatives
 VICIL Hatice, Advisor, Senate
 MERTENS Corinne, Management Assistant, House of Representatives
 VERLINDEN Caroline, Secretary, Senate