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# Working Together for a Sustainable and Secure Future

## *12<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting* Chair's Statement

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1. The 12<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM12) was held in Luxembourg on 5-6 November 2015. The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministers, or their high-level representatives, of 51 Asian and European countries, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the ASEAN Secretary-General. It was hosted by the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn, and chaired by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini. This meeting built upon progress achieved at the ASEM FMM11 held in New Delhi in November 2013.
2. Under the theme 'Working Together for a Sustainable and Secure Future', Ministers exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues and global challenges such as climate change, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction and management, as well as connectivity. Bearing in mind that the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016, Ministers assessed the past achievements of ASEM since its founding in Bangkok in 1996 and discussed its future direction for the next decade.
3. Ministers re-affirmed that ASEM is an important platform for political dialogue, economic cooperation and cultural and social exchanges between Asia and Europe. Through high-level meetings and an expanding network of common projects, events and exchanges, ASEM works towards achieving greater understanding, addressing global and regional challenges, and promoting peace, stability, security, prosperity, human rights and sustainable development for all. While maintaining the informal nature of the dialogue and cooperation within the ASEM framework on the basis of equal partnership, mutual respect and mutual benefit, Ministers stressed that ASEM should continue to strengthen coordination and engage in concrete and tangible cooperation activities that would bring added value to the people of Asia and Europe and that would enhance ASEM's relevance and visibility.

## Climate Change, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

4. Ministers highlighted that 2015 is a key year for global action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. The United Nations Summit in September achieved a global consensus on a bold new vision for sustainable development and poverty eradication. In this respect, Ministers also look forward to the adoption of an ambitious global climate agreement under the UNFCCC at the 2015 UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Paris in December.
5. Ministers welcomed the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which reinforce the international community's commitment to the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely integrating – in a balanced manner - economic, social and environmental aspects and their interlinkages, including the inherent links between eradication of poverty in all its forms and the pursuit of sustainability. Ministers acknowledged that the 2030 Agenda is of unprecedented scope and significance. It is accepted by all countries and is applicable to all, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. The goals will stimulate action over the next fifteen years of critical importance for humanity and the planet. Ministers underlined the importance of systematic and multi-layered follow-up and review of implementation of the Agenda. ASEM could contribute to that follow-up and review process. They agreed to further work in the ASEM framework on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, so as to encourage and facilitate the sharing of best practices.
6. Ministers supported further cooperation between ASEM partners in the framework of the ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue as an important platform to exchange best practices and to consolidate proposals for transforming global challenges *inter alia* related to water, food and energy security into opportunities for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Ministers welcomed the upcoming EXPO 2017 in Kazakhstan dedicated to 'Future Energy' and the successful outcome of the 2015 Milan EXPO on the theme 'Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life'. Ministers reaffirmed their engagement to address emerging challenges in order to promote sustainable water management, including integrated river basin management and flood risk control, and to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation. They encouraged further concerted actions for tangible cooperation between Asia and Europe in water-related issues through trans-boundary, sub-regional and bi-regional cooperation, including between the Mekong and Danube regions.
7. Ministers recognised the serious and urgent challenge posed by climate change, including global temperature rise, more severe floods and droughts as well as sea level rise, and the critical role of Asia and Europe in combatting climate change. They agreed that further ambitious action is required by all Parties, with a view to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and enhance resilience and adaptive

capacity. In this context, Ministers expressed their resolve to work towards the success of the 2015 UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Paris. They committed to play their part in Paris this December in adopting a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the UNFCCC, applicable to all Parties, that reflects the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in light of different national circumstances, to come into effect and be implemented from 2020, capable of keeping the world on track for limiting the average surface temperature rise to below 2°C and shifting towards global low-carbon and climate-resilient society.

8. Ministers congratulated all countries, including ASEM partners, that submitted their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs). It is a very promising signal that more than 120 INDCs have been submitted, covering more than 150 countries and nearly 90% of greenhouse gas emissions. They have not just come from the biggest emitters but also from some of the most vulnerable countries and show a real shift from action by few to action by all. International cooperation is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all sources, including industrial activities, transportation, as well as forest fires of different origin. Ministers look forward to an agreement in Paris that addresses, in a balanced manner, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity building and transparency of action and that is supported by ambitious nationally-determined commitments and/or contributions. The agreement should include an enhanced transparency and accountability system to build mutual trust and confidence and promote effective implementation including through reporting and periodic review of action and support.
9. Ministers encouraged further development of the cooperation on disaster risk reduction and management between ASEM partners, promoting the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Ministers underlined the importance of strengthening resilience through sharing knowledge and promoting cooperation on a broad and people-centred approach to disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response to disasters, recovery, rehabilitation, including through awareness programmes, early warning systems, search, rescue and relief operation, capacity building, and promotion of innovation and technology.

## Connectivity

10. Building on the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit Chair's Statement (Milan, Italy, 16-17 October 2014) and given the constructive and strategic importance of the concept of connectivity, Ministers agreed to mainstream connectivity into all relevant ASEM cooperation frameworks and to further explore the possible establishment of a working group on connectivity. Ministers invited all ASEM partners, as well as ASEM, to regularly update partners on the results and action taken in the field of connectivity, not least in the respective ASEM ministerial meetings and workshops as

well as at all ASEM Senior Officials' Meetings. They commended the ever-growing activities on connectivity in the ASEM framework, underlining ASEM as an ideal platform for connecting Asia and Europe closer together. Against this background, Ministers highlighted that increasing connectivity between Asia and Europe is key to supporting strong, sustainable and inclusive economic growth and to increasing trade, investment, the movement of people, energy, information, knowledge and ideas as well as to deepening of institutional linkages between the two regions. Ministers noted that connectivity is also of interest to other countries and international fora and organisations and encouraged ASEM outreach.

11. Ministers noted with satisfaction that since the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit, a number of high-level ASEM meetings, including the ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (Riga, Latvia, 27-28 April 2015), the ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (Riga, Latvia, 29-30 April 2015) and others, focused on increasing the links between the two regions in various fields. The strong engagement of various stakeholders, including business representatives, academia, think tanks and media in these events was highly commended. During the ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting, ASEM partners greatly enhanced the understanding of the underlying dynamics of Euro-Asian connectivity, and agreed on priorities and necessary actions towards a truly integrated multimodal logistics network connecting Asia and Europe.
12. Ministers also took note of on-going regional and sub-regional cooperation and national initiatives by ASEM partners to connect the two regions. They stressed that an exchange of best practices and experiences at the ASEM-wide level from these cooperation projects is particularly useful for narrowing the development gap and further deepening the trans-boundary cooperation and connectivity among ASEM partners. Ministers reaffirmed the urgent need to initiate stronger cooperation to address the issue of high transportation cost and to search for innovative solutions, including through exchange of knowledge and information on capacity-building activities. Private sector's involvement will further contribute to improving transportation infrastructure that will benefit remote areas and boost trade between the two regions as a whole. In this context, Ministers noted the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, which, together with the Asian Development Bank, the European Investment Bank and other multilateral development banks, has the potential to foster ASEM objectives in terms of increased connectivity.
13. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to an open world economy and stronger trade and investment relations between the two regions as a means for deeper economic integration and connectivity between Asia and Europe. Ministers took positive note of the intention to convene a Senior Officials' Meeting on Trade and Investment (SOMTI) in Asia in 2016, following the Milan Summit Chair's Statement which "encouraged the revitalisation of the ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting." Ministers underlined their commitment to enhance inter-regional trade and investment flows, to actively resist trade-distorting or protectionist measures, and to address restrictions, including non-tariff barriers, which inhibit trade growth and

investment. Continuing work on transparency and anti-corruption is crucial. They recognised that for sustainable economic growth and job creation, promoting economic reform and integration and tapping the potential of trade and foreign investment is crucial, for which an open, stable, inclusive and predictable rules-based multilateral trading system is needed. In this context, they reiterated their commitment to ensuring a successful 10<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference. They reaffirmed the importance of increasing the efforts to implement all the elements of the Bali package, including advancing towards conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda and achieving the early entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement. They also noted progress in negotiations of other ongoing plurilateral initiatives. Ministers also recognised the role that customs cooperation plays in bringing Europe and Asia together and welcomed the work carried out by the customs authorities within the ASEM framework to facilitate the flow of legitimate trade while ensuring the protection of society and the environment.

14. Ministers welcomed the G20's contribution to promoting strong, sustainable and balanced growth, including through the implementation of growth strategies to raise the G20's GDP by at least an additional 2% by 2018. Ministers expressed their support to China's presidency of the 2016 G20 Summit.
15. Ministers reaffirmed the important role of the private sector, and in particular the pivotal role of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), in contributing to inclusive and sustainable economic growth, decent job creation and to increasing trade, investment and tourism in and between the two regions. In this context, they underlined the importance of promoting dialogue and cooperation to meet common social and economic challenges, including those relating to women and girls and the framework and working conditions for SMEs. Ministers stressed the need to promote greater financing for ASEM SMEs and welcomed the concerted efforts towards this end. Ministers also recalled the fruitful and intensive dialogue on employment and social policies in the ASEM framework and in this regard welcomed the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria on 3-4 December, 2015. Ministers acknowledged the role of ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Centre (ASEIC) on supporting sustainable development of Asia and Europe through disseminating eco-innovation and promoting technological cooperation among SMEs.
16. Ministers reaffirmed the importance of science, technology and innovation cooperation in promoting inclusive socio-economic growth and job creation and in addressing global challenges such as in the areas of environment, energy, food, water, soil, agriculture, forests and biotechnology, also through the implementation of cooperative mechanisms and joint development and deployment of innovative solutions. Ministers underlined the importance of addressing the framework conditions for research and innovation collaboration, in particular intellectual property and its protection in fostering innovation, growth and employment, as well as the need to strengthen the on-going cooperation on intellectual property rights



issues in all relevant areas. In this connection, Ministers recognised the importance of international cooperation on mutually beneficial technology transfers.

17. Ministers also highlighted digital connectivity as a key element of connecting the two regions. They emphasised that greater collaboration among ASEM partners in the area of capacity building and exchange of expertise in ensuring security and peaceful development of information and communication technology is essential.
18. Ministers underlined that enhanced people-to-people links, not least through cultural, educational, academic and youth exchanges, as well as tourism, are yet another prerequisite for increased connectivity between the two regions. In this context, they particularly welcomed the outcomes of the ASEM education process, as highlighted during the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting, as well as the role of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), which, as an institution, is crucial in bringing together the civil societies of Asia and Europe. They also welcomed the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting to be held in the Republic of Korea in 2016. The contribution of the EU programmes Erasmus+ and Marie Skłodowska Curie to EU-Asia academic cooperation, university capacity building and student, scholar and researcher mobility was also highlighted, as well as the importance of strengthening vocational education and on-the-job training as essential tools contributing to the creation of sustainable youth employment.

### **International and Regional Issues**

19. Ministers exchanged views on ways to promote deeper Asia-Europe cooperation in the fields of peace, security, human rights and development and on particular regional issues of common interest and concern. These included the importance of the full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action concluded between E3+3 and Iran last July with the aim of establishing the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme; developments in the Middle East and North Africa in particular welcoming the Joint Communiqué issued after recent discussion on Syria in Vienna, Austria, the regional security environment in Asia, the Korean Peninsula, including the DPRK's nuclear and missile programmes as well as the human rights situation, including the abduction issue, and security developments in Europe, including Ukraine.
20. In the context of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations, Ministers reiterated the importance of building a stronger and more effective multilateral system based on international law, in particular the principles of the UN Charter. Ministers pledged to continue to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter and their universality, and to work actively for peace, stability, security, development, prosperity and human rights, which are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, the rule of law in international relations, disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, an end to destabilising flows of conventional arms, gender equality and a more equitable international order.

Greater participation of women in peace and security is needed for sustainable peace and development. Ministers agreed that the UN must be supported and equipped to address contemporary global challenges and called for continued efforts to reform the UN, including its main bodies. The UN must discharge its crucial role in conflict prevention and mediation as well as prevention of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence more effectively. Ministers underlined the important role of national human rights institutions and their regional networks and of the relevant international human rights fora in the promotion and protection of human rights and of strengthening the exchange of experiences and cooperation between Europe and Asia in this field.

21. Ministers welcomed ASEAN's efforts toward regional integration and looked forward to the launch of the ASEAN Community in 2015. They reiterated their support for the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 vision and ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional architecture in Asia, and appreciated ASEAN's role in promoting dialogue, building confidence and cooperation for peace, security, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Ministers commended the successful outcomes of the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in April 2015 and the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related meetings in August 2015 in Malaysia. They appreciated ASEAN endeavours in expanding its relations with partners and welcomed the interest of the EU and non-EU European ASEM partner countries in furthering engagement with the region through all relevant ASEAN-led processes.
22. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining peace, promoting maritime security and stability, safety and cooperation, freedom of navigation and overflight and unimpeded lawful commerce, and to combating piracy and armed robbery at sea in full compliance with international law. They agreed on the critical importance of refraining from the use or threat of force, of abstaining from unilateral actions and of resolving maritime disputes through peaceful means in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The relevance of confidence building measures for strengthening trust and security in the region was also emphasised.
23. While recognising the positive contribution migrants bring to both their countries of origin and destination, Ministers devoted particular attention to the unprecedented challenge of irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons occurring in Asia and in Europe. They discussed the need for comprehensive regional and international responses, including those related to tackling the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement and to providing protection and support to those in need, including improving livelihood and raising awareness in at-risk communities, in accordance with international standards. They underlined the responsibility of the countries of origin, transit and destination to cooperate to promote safe and orderly movement of persons, protect the legitimate rights of migrants in accordance with international law, prevent and counter migrant smuggling, trafficking in persons, illegal recruitment and forced labour, to readmit

their own nationals staying irregularly in other countries by means of bilateral and international agreements, to disrupt the involved criminal groups and to eliminate their financing opportunities. They called on all States to enhance regional and international efforts and cooperation to this end in the spirit of international burden sharing and shared responsibility. All States, international organisations and relevant stakeholders should take into account in their policies and initiatives on migration issues the global character of the migratory phenomenon.

24. Ministers reiterated their strong condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations and expressed their determination to effectively combat it, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. They noted with concern the threat posed to international peace and security by terrorist groups, including the terrorist group calling itself the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) and its affiliates. They expressed determination to counter radicalisation and violent extremism by spreading the values of peaceful coexistence, pluralism, diversity and harmony. Ministers emphasised the importance of preventive efforts and the need for a multi-disciplinary approach. Ministers acknowledged the importance of initiatives to promote moderation, in particular as espoused by the Global Movement of Moderates, to counter radicalisation and extremism in all its forms. They expressed their will to support international cooperation on countering terrorism and violent extremism and on de-radicalisation through the various relevant fora and to implement fully the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council as well as norms of international law. They highlighted that terrorism and violent extremism are not associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group. They also stressed the importance of preventing, detecting, investigating and prosecuting terrorism financing and of stopping the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, preventing violent extremism and terrorists' abuse of the internet. They equally highlighted the need to propose new ideas and to endorse new approaches for developing legal tools to counter terrorism, in line with obligations under international law.
25. Ministers underlined the importance of nuclear safety and strengthening of global cooperation in this field, *inter alia*, through strong commitment to the international safety requirements and standards in order to ensure the safe operation of nuclear facilities around the world. Ministers acknowledged the continuous cooperation within ASEM on nuclear safety and the sharing of experiences on best practices among relevant policymakers and experts. They noted the establishment of the International Low Enriched Uranium Bank under the auspices of the IAEA.
26. Ministers recalled the tragedy of the downing of flight MH17, which occurred on 17 July 2014, and renewed their sympathy to all those who have lost their loved ones. Such acts of violence threaten the safety of civil aviation. Those responsible for the downing of MH17 must be held accountable and brought to justice, in accordance



with the United Nations Security Council resolution 2166(2014).

## Future of ASEM

27. Recalling the ASEM guiding principles, including the Asia-Europe Cooperation Framework 2000 and the 2006 Helsinki Declaration, Ministers discussed the future of ASEM in light of the upcoming 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEM in 2016. They welcomed the initiative of Thailand to host the ASEM Symposium on the Future Direction of ASEM (Bangkok, Thailand, 30 March 2015) and noted with interest the proposals contained in the 'Bangkok Initiatives on the Future Direction of ASEM'.
28. Ministers highlighted that ASEM continues to fulfil the expectations with which it was founded nearly twenty years ago. In providing a framework for Asia-Europe dialogue and cooperation, ASEM has acted as an incubator and facilitator of ideas and a platform for tangible cooperation projects. Ministers agreed that ASEM's informality, including through discussions in the retreat format, and flexibility should be strengthened. Accordingly, Ministers tasked the ASEM Senior Officials to continue working on putting forward concrete suggestions for improved working methods and coordination, more effective institutional memory, enhanced connectivity, tangible cooperation projects, further involving relevant stakeholders in the ASEM process and other ways for strengthening the Asia-Europe dialogue and cooperation for endorsement by the Leaders at the upcoming anniversary summit.
29. Ministers underlined the importance of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary ASEM Summit in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in July 2016, as proposed by the host, in determining the direction of ASEM for the next decade and in moving the ASEM process further, while building on its strengths and accomplishments of the past two decades. In this context, they welcomed the update provided by Mongolia about the state of preparations of the Summit.
30. Ministers welcomed the initiative of ASEM partners to organise a number of meetings at various levels held in 2015-2016 in the run-up to the Summit and the Foreign Ministers' Meeting (see Annex I). They commended that partners continue to focus on a number of tangible cooperation areas (see Annex II) of particular relevance to the ASEM process, as had been agreed at the ASEM FMM11 in New Delhi, India, and thereafter at the Milan Summit.
31. Ministers commended the work of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in complementing the government-led ASEM process with its projects in a number of key areas, including culture, economy, education, governance, public health and sustainable development, as well as specific projects taking place in the margins of the Foreign Ministers' Meeting, including the first-ever ASEF Young Leaders' Summit (see Annex III). Ministers took note of the recommendations contained in the document entitled 'Suggestions for Closer Synergies between ASEF Activities and the ASEM Process' and tasked the ASEM Senior Officials in cooperation with ASEF

to, as appropriate, put the document's recommendations into practice.

32. Ministers underlined that engaging the civil society and various stakeholders – parliamentarians, business, labour, academics and think tanks, women's organisations, students and youth, as well as journalists – is key to enhancing ASEM visibility and to its continued relevance for the people. They expressed support to mainstreaming the input of various stakeholders into the official ASEM process, by providing appropriate consultation channels and, where possible, directly involving relevant stakeholders in ASEM meetings.
33. Ministers welcomed the strengthened emphasis on ASEM's public awareness and visibility. They took note of the on-going work on the ASEM Press and Public Awareness Management Strategy and commended the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) for its efforts to maintain and upgrade the ASEM InfoBoard which is a key tool in promoting ASEM and providing comprehensive information on the ASEM process to the interested public. They encouraged all ASEM partners to contribute to the efforts to enhance ASEM's visibility.
34. Ministers thanked the Chair for the effective handling of the meeting and the host for the excellent hospitality. Ministers looked forward to the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in an ASEAN country in 2017, and expressed their strong determination to ensure a successful outcome of the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit in July 2016 in Mongolia

## Annex I Calendar of ASEM Meetings and Initiatives 2015-17

Date	ASEM Meetings	Venue	Co-sponsors
<b>2015</b>			
18-21 January	5 <sup>th</sup> ASEM working group meeting on the Innovative Competences and Entrepreneurship	Riga, Latvia	Denmark
27 February	ASEM Roundtable Towards Sustainable Water Management through partnerships	New Delhi, India	India, Denmark
4 March	4 <sup>th</sup> ASEM University-Business Forum	Brussels, Belgium	Belgium (Flanders)
9-12 March	ASEM Forum on Lifelong Learning	Bali, Indonesia	
9-13 March	Foreign Policy Module for ASEM Diplomats	New Delhi, India	
11-13 March	3 <sup>rd</sup> ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors	Bangkok, Thailand	
26-27 March	4 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Rectors' Conference (ARC4) and Students' Forum	Hangzhou, China	
30 March	ASEM Symposium on the Future Direction of ASEM	Bangkok, Thailand	
31 March - 1 April	<b>ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)</b>	Bangkok, Thailand	
21-22 April	Seminar on Cooperation in Science, Technology & Innovation for Sustainable Development	Beijing, China	Singapore, Greece
26 April	2 <sup>nd</sup> SOM for the 5 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting	Riga, Latvia	
27-28 April	<b>5<sup>th</sup> ASEM Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME5)</b>	Riga, Latvia	
28 April	SOM for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (ASEM TMM3)	Riga, Latvia	
29-30 April	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (ASEM TMM3)</b>	Riga, Latvia	

18-26 May	ASEM Workshop on Fostering Entrepreneurship in Higher Education	Brunei Darussalam	Cambodia, China, New Zealand, Singapore, UK
22-23 May	ASEM Seminar on Renewable Energy	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	
24-26 May	ASEM Meeting on Sustainable Management and Use of Forests in Policy and Practice	Ljubljana, Slovenia	China
26-28 May	ASEM Industry Dialogue on Connectivity	Chongqing, China	Latvia, Luxembourg, Cambodia
3-5 June	4 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Dialogue on Sustainable Development: Strengthening concerted actions on water management through the Post-2015 Agenda	Ben Tre City, Vietnam	Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Thailand, Laos, Slovakia, EU
17-19 June	9 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Working Group on Customs Matters (AWC)	Liège, Belgium	EU
26-27 June	Seminar on Sustainable Management of Wastewater and Sanitation	Singapore	India, Norway
9-11 September	Symposium on Transport and Logistics Network	Seoul, Republic of Korea	India, China
10-11 September	<b>ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)</b>	Brussels, Belgium	EU
25 September	ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism	Tokyo, Japan	Cambodia, Greece, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Mongolia, Philippines, Romania, Spain, Switzerland
30 September - 2 October	Seminar "Promoting Social Protection Improvement through Social Dialogue in Asia and Europe Region"	Bali, Indonesia	
5-6 October	13 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Conference of Directors-General of Immigration	Singapore	
7-9 October	11 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Customs DG-Commissioners Meeting	Goa, India	
26-28 October	ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons	Seoul, Republic of Korea	
29-30 October	4 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Seminar on Nuclear Safety	Madrid, Spain	EU
29-30 October	ASEM Seminar on financing SMEs in Asia and Europe	Rome, Italy	China, EU, Indonesia, Philippines

29-30 October	ASEM Cooperation on Disability	Beijing, China	France, Germany, New Zealand, Pakistan
2-4 November	<b>ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)</b>	Luxembourg	EU
5-6 November	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM12)</b>	Luxembourg	EU
10-11 November	Working Group Seminar on ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Competences	Republic of Korea	
11-12 November	Food Safety and SPS Seminar	Brussels, Belgium	EU
20 November	2 <sup>nd</sup> ASEM Roundtable on Green Building	Gandhinagar, India	
24-28 November	15 <sup>th</sup> Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights (Human Trafficking)	Montreux, Switzerland	Philippines, France, Sweden, ASEF, EU
3-4 December	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Labour and Employment Ministerial Conference (LEMC 5)</b>	Sofia, Bulgaria	EU
(tbc)	ASEM Inter-Governmental Cooperative Measurement Initiatives	Republic of Korea	
(tbc)	Education for Innovation and Entrepreneurship	Denmark	
<b>2016</b>			
February (tbc)	Eco-innovation Experts Meeting	Republic of Korea	
15-22 March (tbc)	ASEM Youth Week: Stronger Action to Address Zero Hunger Challenge	Ha Noi - Ha Long Bay, Viet Nam	Lao PDR, Brunei Darussalam, Ireland, ASEF
25-26 March	Meeting of Young CEOs in ASEM	New Delhi, India	Cambodia
1 <sup>st</sup> quarter (tbc)	ASEM Symposium on "Non-invasive Diagnostic Technologies for Diabetes & Treatment of Diabetes as a Lifestyle Disease"	New Delhi, India	
21-22 April (tbc)	9 <sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Parliamentary Meeting (ASEP9)*	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	
April (tbc)	ASEM Round table on migration issues	Moscow, Russia	
April (tbc)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Seminar for the establishment of the ASEM Center on Science, Technology and Innovation	Athens, Greece	



12-13 May (tbc)	ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	
May (tbc)	ASEM Media Dialogue on Connectivity	Guangzhou, China	
9-10 June (tbc)	12 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting (FinMM12)	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	
20-21 June (tbc)	Food Security: Training of Farmers	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	China
June (tbc)	Eco-Innovation Experts Meeting	Republic of Korea	
June (tbc)	ASEM Forum on the Human Rights of Older Persons	Seoul, Republic of Korea	
1 <sup>st</sup> semester (tbc)	1 <sup>st</sup> Eurasia Expert Group Meeting	Republic of Korea	
1-2 July (tbc)	11 <sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF)*	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	
13-14 July (tbc)	15 <sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF)*	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	
12-14 July (tbc)	<b>ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting</b>	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	
15-16 July (tbc)	<b>11<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit</b>	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	
Summer (tbc)	ASEM Seminar on Education Methodology: "How to Teach Europe, How to Teach Asia"	Warsaw, Poland	
September	ASEM Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management: Innovation and Technology for Resilience-based Sustainable Development	Vietnam	Belgium, India, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Philippines, EU
20-21 October	Workshop on "Conservation Techniques & Instruments"	New Delhi, India	
October	ASEM Meeting on Green Skills for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth	Ha Noi, Viet Nam	Lao PDR, Italy, Switzerland, Romania, China
2 <sup>nd</sup> semester (tbc)	13 <sup>th</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting on Trade and Investment (SOMTI)	Asia (tbc)	China, Mongolia, Republic of Korea
(tbc)	<b>7<sup>th</sup> ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting (CMM7)</b>	Gwangju, Republic of Korea	

		Korea	
(tbc)	ASEM Symposium on Countering Radicalisation	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Romania
(tbc)	Promoting Youth Employment across Asia and Europe	Rome, Italy	Italy, Viet Nam, China
(tbc)	5 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Seminar on Water Management	Ruse, Bulgaria	

## 2017

(tbc)	<b>13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13)</b>	Asia (ASEAN) (tbc)	
(tbc)	<b>6<sup>th</sup> ASEM Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME6)</b>	Seoul, Republic of Korea	
(tbc)	<b>4<sup>th</sup> ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (ASEM TMM4)</b>	Asia (tbc)	
(tbc)	4 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Meeting of Governors and Mayors	Lisbon, Portugal	
(tbc)	12 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Customs DG-Commissioners Meeting	Germany	

\* ASEM Forum

## Annex 2

### List of ASEM Tangible Cooperation Areas and Participating Partners

N°	Tangible cooperation area	Participating ASEM partners
1	Disaster Management and Mitigation, Building Rescue and Relief Capacities, Technologies and Innovation in Rescue Equipments & Techniques	Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, EU, Finland, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Vietnam
2	Efficient and Sustainable Water Management, Innovations in Water & Waste Management	Austria, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, China, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Malta, Mongolia, Pakistan, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Viet Nam
3	SME Cooperation	Austria, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan
4	Renewable Energy: Mitigation, Adaptation, Financing and Technological Innovations	Austria, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Hungary, India, Lithuania, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Spain, Thailand

5	Energy Efficiency Technologies	Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, India, Republic of Korea, Lithuania, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Spain, Thailand
6	Higher Education	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Finland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Thailand, United Kingdom
7	Vocational Training & Skills Development	Austria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Finland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Malaysia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Viet Nam
8	Food Safety Issues, including Training of Farmers	Bangladesh, China, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Slovakia, Thailand
9	Education And Human Resources Development	Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan
10	Waste Management: More Efficient Use of Material Resources, The Waste Sector as a Central Player in the Economy with Waste to Energy and More Efficient Reuse and Recycling Models	Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, India, Lithuania, Netherlands, Singapore
11	Promote Trade and Investment/ Involve Private Sectors	Cambodia, Cyprus, Finland, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Poland
12	Poverty Reduction	Ireland, Lao PDR, Myanmar,

		Poland
13	Promotion and protection of human rights	Bulgaria, France, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland
14	Information Technology/ Knowledge Connectivity	Cyprus, Estonia, Republic of Korea
15	Transport and Logistics	Austria, Cambodia, Lithuania, Republic of Korea
16	Technologies for Diagnostics	Belgium, India
17	Promotion of tourism	Austria, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Greece, Indonesia, Japan, Lithuania, Philippines, Romania, Spain, Switzerland
18	Women's empowerment	Japan, Lithuania, Romania
19	Nuclear Safety	Indonesia, Lithuania



## Annex 3

### ASEF's Contributions to the ASEM Process

#### Selected Projects in 2015

Contributions to Press & Public Awareness of the ASEM Process			
1	ASEM InfoBoard: <a href="http://www.aseminfoboard.org">www.aseminfoboard.org</a>	Throughout 2015	Online
2	Digital Publication on ASEM's 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Oct-Dec 2015	Online
3	ASEF Journalists' Workshop: "Asia-Europe Digital Connectivity"	10-11 Dec 2015	Brussels, Belgium
Contributions to the 12 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM12) in 2015			
1	ASEF Young Leaders' Summit 2015: "Entrepreneurship & Youth Employment"	1-5 Nov 2015	Luxembourg
2	10 <sup>th</sup> ASEF Journalists' Colloquium: "Crisis Reporting – The Role of Asian & European Media"	4-6 Nov 2015	Luxembourg
3	ASEF Photo Exhibition "On the Go"	4 Nov - Dec 2015	Luxembourg
Contributions to the 5 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME5) in 2015			
1	4 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Rectors' Conference & Students' Forum (ARC4): "University-Business Partnerships: Asia & Europe Seeking 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Solutions"	23-27 Mar 2015	Hangzhou, China
2	ASEF Classroom Network (ASEF ClassNet)	Throughout 2015	Online & Offline (Asia & Europe)
Contributions to the 7 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting (ASEM CMM7) in 2016			
1	8 <sup>th</sup> ASEF Public Forum: Creative Cities in Asia & Europe: "Cities: Living Labs for Culture?"	24-Nov 2015	Gwangju, Korea
2	ASEF culture360: <a href="http://www.culture360.asef.org">www.culture360.asef.org</a>	Throughout 2015	Online
3	19 <sup>th</sup> ASEF Summer University: "Sustainable Urbanisation in Heritage Cities"	9-21 Aug 2015	Pune, India
Contributions to the 5 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Labour & Employment Ministers' Conference (ASEM LEMC5) in 2015			
1	Asia-Europe Migration Project: Presentation on Effective Social & Labour Standards for Protecting Workers (tbc)	3-4 Dec 2015	Sofia, Bulgaria
2	ASEF Experts' Meeting on Entrepreneurship & Youth Employment: "Re-Engineering Tactics for Asia & Europe"	29 Jun – 1 Jul 2015	Stockholm, Sweden
Contribution to the 12 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FinMM12) in 2016			
1	12 <sup>th</sup> Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF): Conference: "Global Governance & Public Goods – Asian & European Perspectives"	1-2 Oct 2015	Paris, France
Contributions to next ASEM Environment Ministers' Meeting (ASEM EnvMM5) (tba)			
1	Asia-Europe: Energy Challenges & Climate Change: "Asia and Europe Crossing Paths on the Way to COP21"	29-30 Sep 2015	Paris, France
2	Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum): Conference on Sustainable Development Goals	17-19 Nov 2015	Incheon, Korea
Other Key Contributions			

1	15 <sup>th</sup> Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights: “ <i>Human Rights &amp; Trafficking in Persons</i> ”	24-26 Nov 2015	Montreux, Switzerland
2	Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative: Face-to-Face & Online Trainings	10-12 Mar 2015	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
		4 May – 16 Jul 2015	Online
		24-27 Aug 2015	Bangkok, Thailand

### Selected Projects in 2016

Contributions to Press & Public Awareness of the ASEM Process			
1	ASEM InfoBoard: <a href="http://www.aseminfoboard.org">www.aseminfoboard.org</a>	Throughout 2016	Online
2	Digital Publication on ASEM’s 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Jan – Jul 2016	Online
	Hardcopy Publication on ASEM’s 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Jul 2016	Asia & Europe
3	ASEF Photo Exhibition: “ <i>On the Go</i> ”	Jan 2016 (tbc)	Brussels, Belgium
		Feb 2016 (tbc)	Singapore (tbc)
		Throughout 2016	Online
4	ASEF Journalists’ Workshop: “ <i>Asia-Europe Digital Connectivity</i> ”	Mar 2016 (tbc)	Asia
Contributions to the 11 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit (ASEM11) in 2016			
1	8 <sup>th</sup> ASEF Editors’ Roundtable	Jul 2016 (tbc)	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
2	ASEF Photo Exhibition: “ <i>On the Go</i> ”	Jul 2016 (tbc)	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (tbc)
3	ASEF Outlook Report 2016/2017: “ <i>Connectivity Between Asia &amp; Europe</i> ”	2016	Launch in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (tbc)
Contributions to the 7 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Culture Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM CMM7) in 2016			
1	9 <sup>th</sup> ASEF Public Forum	Jul 2016 (tbc)	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (tbc)
2	10 <sup>th</sup> ASEF Public Forum at the 7 <sup>th</sup> World Summit on Arts and Culture	Oct 2016	Valetta, Malta
Contributions to the 6 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM ME6) in 2017			
1	5 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Rectors’ Conference & Students’ Forum (ARC5)	4-8 Apr 2016	Prague, Czech Republic
Other Key Contributions			
1	16 <sup>th</sup> Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights: “ <i>Human Rights &amp; People with Disabilities</i> ”	Nov 2016 (tbc)	China

\* More ASEF projects in 2016 contributing to the ASEF Process are subject to the approval by the ASEF Board of Governors.

\* For ASEF’s full project portfolio 2015/2016 in the areas of culture, economy, education, governance, public health, and sustainable development, please refer to ASEF’s website: [www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org).