R18 An ASEAN-EU future

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Agenda item: 4. Resolutions

Motion text

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is the counterpart of the European Union (EU) in the Southeast Asian region, consisting of 10 member states: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. ASEAN has since its formation continued to pursue the increased integration of Southeast Asian nations, establishing amongst other things the ASEAN Vision 2020 in 1997 and ASEAN Charter in 2008 to pursue the realisation of a single ASEAN community and free-trade area; as well as establishing the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in 2009, and adopting the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration in 2012. ASEAN is expected to be the world’s fourth largest economy by 2030.

ASEAN-EU ties date back to 1972, where the then European Economic Community was the first international entity to establish informal ties with ASEAN, followed by formal ties as a Dialogue Partnership in 1977 which was institutionalised by the ASEAN-EEC Cooperation Agreement of 1980. Since then, ASEAN-EU ties have continued to blossom, with the EU in 2012 being the first regional organisation to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and in 2015 establishing a diplomatic mission to ASEAN. As a result of the 23rd ASEAN-EU Ministerial meeting in 2020, the EU and ASEAN have since improved their Dialogue Partnership into a Strategic Partnership.

The influence of the EU on ASEAN is undeniable, with the EU being the third largest trading partner of ASEAN (and ASEAN as well being the third largest extra-EU trading partner), the third largest provider of Foreign Direct Investment in ASEAN, the largest collaborator in development cooperation and lobbying of the EU amongst other states leading to ASEAN for the first time in its history declining to invite a political leader of a member state to its October 2021 summit.

With 2022 marking the 45th anniversary of the partnership of the two unions, it is now more relevant than ever to further blossom the relations between the two unions in order to strive for a truly inclusive and sustainable Strategic Partnership with each other and for an inclusive and sustainable global community.

The Federation of Young European Greens calls on the European Union:

1. To further expand its economic cooperation with ASEAN, including:

    1. The acceleration of the conclusion of the current negotiations for bilateral trade agreements with individual ASEAN member states, and eventually the establishment of a region-to-region (EU-ASEAN) free trade agreement,

    2. The further facilitation and stimulation of foreign direct investment that prioritises sustainable development in ASEAN contingent on, among others, respect for human rights, labour rights, rule of law, sustainability, and climate and environment, by, for example, pushing for transparency, predictability and security for investors alongside stringent corporate social responsibility rules and responsible business practices,

    3. The advancement of clear EU-ASEAN trade-related regulatory frameworks, as well as the promotion of EU rights, standards and policy frameworks such as the Eurocodes;

2. To increase efforts in improving regional security and stability, including:

    1. The sharing of information, intelligence and technology to combat transnational and cybercrime,

    2. The initiation of security summits and other diplomatic means to foster discussion in which the EU could act as an independent conduit for dialogue amongst the claimant states in the South China Sea dispute,

    3. The continued strong denouncement of the breach of rule of law and human rights in the region, particularly recently in Myanmar, and the continued urging for the immediate and unconditional release of political prisoners;

3. To broaden the scope of collaboration and socio-cultural cooperation with ASEAN, including:

    1. The active involvement of the EU in the various ASEAN summits of which it is a member of,

    2. The organisation of cultural and social exchanges, and the fostering of the collaboration of artists and media producers and organisation of joint-exhibitions and cultural projects,

3. The organisation of academic and research exchanges, the increased provision of scholarships and trainings, and further cooperation in terms of research, technology and investment therein,

4. The further involvement of civil society and youth in the processes and discussions of EU-ASEAN, such as the more frequent organisation, if not yearly, of the EU-ASEAN Young Leaders Forum.