

MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the ‘Brussels Report on Strengthening Asia–Europe Connectivity: Drawing Synergy from Global Development and Governance Programmes’.

The European Union is the host of 12th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Brussels, Belgium, on 18–19 October 2018. The theme of 12th ASEM Summit is ‘Asia and Europe: Global Partners for Global Challenges’. Leaders and senior officials of all 51 member countries and the two institutional partners, the European Union and the Association for South East Asian Nations, will converge in Brussels to take stock of Asia–Europe cooperation and the role of Asia–Europe connectivity mechanisms in realising the core objectives of cooperation and connectivity in ASEM.

Building on its achievements of the past 22 years, ASEM is now poised to put its combined strength behind global development goals and global governance mechanisms. In 2018, partnerships amongst regions and countries with common objectives have become more important than ever. ASEM connectivity mechanisms are the most visible face of ASEM. Therefore, the Brussels Summit is an opportunity for Asia and Europe to strengthen ASEM connectivity by converging ASEM’s activities towards global development objectives and global governance mechanisms.

I believe that the ‘Brussels Report on Strengthening ASEM Connectivity’ will bring out the achievements and future opportunities for the Asia and Europe partnership in addressing the global challenges substantively, and in setting out the roadmap for ASEM connectivity for the next decade. I expect that the Brussels Report will contribute to the productive discussions and valuable decisions made by this Summit, and that it will greatly contribute to enhancing connectivity between Asia and Europe.

I congratulate ERIA on bringing out this timely assessment of the contribution of Asia and Europe to global development objectives and global governance, and thank them for their continuous support of ASEM’s connectivity activities. I believe that the ‘Brussels Report on Strengthening Asia Europe Connectivity’ will be a key document for this Summit and that it will provide guidance for ASEM’s connectivity activities well beyond 2018.



Gunnar Wiegand

Managing Director of the Asia Pacific Department
European External Action Service