



IFAIR

Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs
and International Relations e.V.

Delegation Report

Conducted in Cooperation
with



The Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs and International Relations (**IFAIR**) in cooperation with the European Institute for Asian Studies (**EIAS**) and Hanns Seidel Foundation (**HSS**) conducted the final phase of its 2nd Interregional **EU-ASEAN Perspectives Dialogue** from **16-18 June** 2015 in Brussels. Young researchers from EU and ASEAN discussed their findings on the role of both regions in **global policy making** with various relevant stakeholders, including a public panel debate and a citizen cafe.



The delegation participants in front of the building of the European Commission.

Overview on the delegation program

Tuesday, June 16

Visit of the Parliamentarium

Talk with Andreas Strignitz, Policy Advisor to the European Parliament Delegation for Relations with ASEAN

Background talk with the ASEAN Department of European External Action Service

Wednesday, June 17

Presentation of the DG International Development and Cooperation by Matthias Reusing, ASEAN Coordinator

Meeting with Zainal Izran Zahari, Deputy of Chief of Missions at the Embassy of Malaysia in Brussels, and Representatives from ASEAN embassies in Brussels



IFAIR

Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs
and International Relations e.V.

Talk with Katharina Patzelt, Programme Officer, and Ilke Fidan, Programme Assistant for Development Policy/International Cooperation, of Hanns Seidel Foundation Brussels

Thursday, June 18

Talk with Ingo Ritz from Global Call of Action Against Poverty

Citizen Café, where participants present the findings of their policy paper

Panel Debate on “EU-ASEAN Action on Climate Change – Stepping up Impact?”

DAY 1

Parlamentarium

The European Parliament's Visitors' Centre

The Parlamentarium marked an excellent opportunity for all participants, especially from South-East Asia but also from the EU, to experience the European Parliament hands on. At the Visitors' Center the institution that represents 500 Million Europeans can be discovered in a refreshingly new way as a highly interactive and multimedia-based exhibition guides through the journey of European integration and the assembly's daily work. New insights into the institutional set-up of the EU provided the opportunity to discuss both differences and similarities between the EU and ASEAN in terms of regional integration.



Delegation participants at the entrance of the building of the European Parliament



Talk with Mr Andreas Striegnitz

Policy Advisor to the EP Delegation for South East-Asia & ASEAN

Mr Andreas Striegnitz, Policy Advisor to the EP Delegation for relations with the ten countries of South-East Asia, which are members of ASEAN and with ASEAN itself as an organisation, shared some interesting insights about the annual working missions to the region and the delegation's mode of operation next to the Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs. Moreover, he shed some light on the inter-parliamentary meetings between the European Parliament and the respective national parliaments as well as the ASEAN Inter-parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), in which the European Parliament has observer status. In this context he commented also on the recent semi-annual meeting with the ASEAN Brussels Committee and the EEAS in Strasbourg. Since both the European Parliament and the EEAS represent the European Union on issues addressed at these meetings, Mr Striegnitz explained institutional cooperation between the two and stressed the increasing strategic importance of examining developments in the respective countries and the entire region.



Participants discuss with Mr Andreas Striegnitz

Background Talk with the ASEAN Department of EEAS

Meeting with Ranieri Sabatucci, Head of Division South-East Asia

An informal background talk with Ranieri Sabatucci – Head of Division South East Asia patron of IFAIRs 2nd EU ASEAN Perspectives Dialogue – and four of his colleagues from the Division South East Asia, represented an excellent possibility to discuss the European Union's commitment to supporting further regional integration in South-East Asia. While the EU and ASEAN share a common view on integration as “a means of fostering regional stability, building prosperity, and addressing global challenges” the opinions on the actual model for cooperation differ. However, the EEAS made clear, that the EU does not intend to impose any particular model on South-East Asia and fully supports ASEAN's renewed agenda set forth by the Secretariat in Jakarta in order to



IFAIR

Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs
and International Relations e.V.

increase relations between its member states. “The EU wants a strong, united and self-confident ASEAN, proceeding with its own integration.” At the same time the EU seeks to increase dialogue and cooperation with ASEAN. Therefore, the recently adopted Joint Communication presents concrete steps for enhancing EU-ASEAN relations by “providing a more coherent framework for sectoral cooperation and by ensuring a sharper political focus.” As examples for concrete proposals and commitments Mr Sabatucci pointed to the increasing financial support by the EU, the plans for a region-to-region Free Trade Agreement in the long term and the intensification of cooperation on connectivity by providing expertise and facilitating ASEAN efforts, including the single market. By these means the EU hopes to pursue a future strategic partnership with a closer coordination on regional and international issues.



Participants, Mr Sabatucci (far right) and his colleagues from the division discussing challenges in the relations between EU and ASEAN



DAY 2

Presentation of DG International Development and Cooperation of the European Commission

Meeting with Mr Mathias Reusing, ASEAN Programme Coordinator



Chiara de Santis (programme participant) presents the findings of the group's policy paper to Mr Reusing (far left).

Representing DG Devco, Mr Reusing commented on the EU development cooperation with Asia by referring to the Agenda for Change. Thereby, the main objective of cooperation during the next years is to achieve the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region. According to Mr Reusing further points of focus are rural development, agriculture, natural resources management, climate change, trade and regional integration. In order to achieve its goals the EU increased its aid by 20% for the period from 2014-2020. In total € 6.5 billion will be allocated for national and regional programmes in Asia. With regard to the period from 2007-2013 Mr Reusing illustrated EU-ASEAN cooperation by discussing the EU's support to ASEAN economic integration that led to a strengthened economic integration process management, a considerable progress in achieving free flow of goods within ASEAN and a strengthened capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat to support AEC implementation and integration. Moreover, he pointed to the success of the EU support to higher education in the ASEAN region. For the years to come EU-ASEAN cooperation will focus on three specific sectors: 1. Connectivity through sustainable and inclusive economic integration and trade, 2. Climate change, environment and disaster management and 3. A comprehensive dialogue facility. Among others, Mr Reusing laid out the plans for the ARISE+ programme that aims to support regional cooperation in South-East Asia through economic integration and trade. Despite the fact that this particular programme started in 2014, first results such as a more advanced ASEAN single market and production base, a more competitive



economic region and strengthened institutional capacities are already visible today. With regard to the EU-ASEAN Dialogue Mr Reusing pointed to the Enhanced Regional Dialogue Instrument (E-READI). Given that policies to prevent excessive climate change have not been a focal point of the EU's support, the participants had an interesting discussion about the role of sustainability. To conclude our visit at DG Devco Mr. Christos Marazopoulos, Information and Communications Officer for the European Year for Development 2015, presented the ongoing EC campaign for the European Year of Development.



The group proudly presented their policy paper to Mr Reusing and Mr Marazopoulos after their presentations

Meeting with Representatives from ASEAN Embassies Working Lunch at the Embassy of Malaysia



Representatives of the Thai and Philippine Embassies exchange views with the group.

The Embassy of Malaysia, who currently chairs the ASEAN Brussels Committee, kindly invited the IFAIR delegation to a working lunch at their embassy with representatives from all ASEAN Embassies in Brussels. While being a real treat, the lunch especially provided the possibility to direct questions on a variety of topics, such as institutional development of the ASEAN Secretariat, climate change cooperation, region-to-region trade and development to the respective representatives of South-East Asian countries.



Following in-depth informal discussions, Zainal Izran Zahari, Deputy of Chief of Missions at the Embassy of Malaysia in Brussels gave a short introduction on the work of the ASEAN embassies in Brussels. The delegation participants and representatives of the embassies then exchanged their views on challenges and next steps in the development of ASEAN in the above mentioned topics, touching as well on controversial topics such as the current refugee crisis in both regions or upcoming challenges in EU integration, where the members of the various embassies also took the opportunity to ask the participants about their opinion, e.g. concerning their stance on the issue of Turkey. The meeting also gave an excellent opportunity for both sides to clarify different aims of the regional integration projects, where the ASEAN representatives highlighted the intergovernmental structure of ASEAN and the different role of the ASEAN Secretariat as opposed to the European Commission, as well as to discuss the diverging self-perceptions and social perception of both regional bodies.



The delegation participants and representatives of the ASEAN embassies in Brussels gathered in the Malaysian embassy the EU and Belgium.

Talk with Hanns Seidel Foundation Brussels

Meeting with Ms Katharina Patzelt and Ms Ilke Fidan

Ms Patzelt and Ms Fidan gave a coherent account of the work done by Hanns Seidel Foundation in Brussels but also in South-East Asia. Participants were especially interested in the work of HSF within the European Network of Political Foundations, where the policy advocacy of the political foundations of Europe takes place – as Ms Patzelt explained with a strong role of the German political foundations. Ms Patzelt in the following presented the development work of HSF. Despite the fact that the HSF is a German political foundation, it engages in various projects in South-East Asia. It seeks



IFAIR

Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs
and International Relations e.V.

to “promote humane living conditions and to contribute to sustainable development by strengthening peace, democracy and social market economy.” Its engagement in South-East Asia is structured in a regional approach and through projects in Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam the foundation maintains close regional contacts to the ASEAN, to the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) and to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). Finally, participants thanked Hanns Seidel Foundation especially for their support in bringing ASEAN project participants to Brussels and in establishing contacts to relevant stakeholders in Brussels. The discussions were subsequently continued in an informal dinner on invitation of HSF.



Project participant Mr Jaya Dani Mulyanto (left) used the meeting with Ms Katharina Patzelt (left) and Ms Ilke Fidan (middle) Hanns Seidel Foundation to present the group’s policy paper and thank HSF for their support to the project.

DAY 3

Meeting with Ingo Ritz from the Non-Profit Campaign Global Call of Action Against Poverty



Delegations participants discuss with Ingo Ritz (far right) from GCAP.



IFAIR

Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs
and International Relations e.V.

Ingo Ritz, Director in the Global Secretariat of the Non-Profit Campaign Global Call of Action Against Poverty, shared his view on the global process, where the community of states aims at agreeing on “Sustainable Development Goals” as a successor framework to the the Millennium Development. Mr Ritz described in detail the process that led to the SDGs today and shared his assessment on the MDG process concluded in 2015. He highlighted especially the broad inclusion of civil society organizations for the SDGs, which is unrivalled in any other comparable policy discourse. In the discussions with the participants he highlighted that this inclusion made a clear difference, for example concerning the inclusion of the proposed goals on tackling inequality within states. The participants subsequently discussed linkages to other policy processes, e.g. the ongoing negotiations for free trade agreements.



Project participants listen to the presentation by Ingo Ritz

Citizen Café



On four tables, delegation members explain the findings of their policy paper to the audience



IFAIR

Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs
and International Relations e.V.

The interested public, from university students to experienced practitioners, was invited to inform itself on the findings of the group's policy paper "Making Interregionalism Actionable". Restricted to an audience of thirty, the participants discussed the group's findings on current challenges and cooperation potential between EU and ASEAN in development, international financial architecture, trade and climate change. The delegation participants prepared flipcharts to present their findings and then engaged in a ten-minute discussion with the audience – the audience informed itself on four tables, where presentations rotated every ten minutes. The format achieved a highly interactive and personal exchange between visitors and project participants. The policy paper is available online at http://ifair.eu/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/IFAIR_Making_Interregionalism_Actionable_WEB.pdf



Delegation participants and the audience engage in a discussion on the findings

Panel Debate on “EU-ASEAN Action on Climate Change”

Concluding the delegation program and the 2nd Interregional EU-ASEAN Perspectives Dialogue, IFAIR organized a panel debate, in cooperation with the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) and Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Brussels, which engaged high-level policy-makers and academics with the ideas of young people from Europe and Southeast Asia. Under the broad topic “EU-ASEAN Action on Climate Change”, it was discussed whether the EU and ASEAN can be strategic partners in tackling climate change, working together at COP21 and potentially even finding new pathways of inter-regional cooperation away from the UN negotiations table. They can be, said the ex-



IFAIR

Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs
and International Relations e.V.

perts on the panel. The panelists even commented on concrete potential steps ahead: To stimulate both the climate change debate and EU-ASEAN relations, H.E. Bataclan called for a joint policy framework of the EU and ASEAN on climate change, ideally before COP21. "We can have an EU-ASEAN statement on climate change. ASEAN just had it with the US and the US had it with China. So why not? We should just start working on it", she said. This idea was well received by the audience and endorsed by Mr Sabatucci. The full report on the panel discussion can be found online at <http://ifair.eu/en/act/english-eu-asean-action-on-climate-change-ifair-discusses-with-experts-and-policy-makers/>



Participants of the debate were H.E. Victoria S Bataclan, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to Belgium and the European Union (second from right), Dr Yeo Lay Hwee, Director of the EU Centre in Singapore (right), Ranieri Sabatucci, Head of Asia and Pacific Department at the EEAS (second from left) as well as Agathe Schibler, participant of IFAIR's 2nd EU-ASEAN Perspectives Dialogue and co-author of the project group's policy paper (right), under moderation of Nelly Stratieva from IFAIR (middle).





IFAIR

Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs
and International Relations e.V.

A 3rd Interregional EU-ASEAN Perspectives Dialogue?

Overall, the debriefing round among the participants applauded the effort and the format of bringing participants from both ASEAN and EU together with an online and offline component. Similarly, the feedback from the various stakeholders the group discussed with confirmed a lack of engagement with the bilateral relations between EU and ASEAN in general, and of youth engagement in particular.

Consequently, the group, in the debriefing round, agreed to make plans for a 3rd Interregional EU-ASEAN Perspectives Dialogue, where we hope to be able to build on the successful experiences so far.



Participants of IFAIRs “2nd Interregional EU-ASEAN Perspectives Dialogue” from EU and ASEAN present the policy paper to Raniera Sabatucci, H.E. Victoria S Bataclan and Dr. Yeo Lay Hwee.

**Executive Committee of
IFAIR’s Impact Group
“EU-ASEAN Perspectives”**

Kilian Spandler
kilian.spandler@ifair.eu

Steffen Murau
steffen.murau@ifair.eu

Lukas Rudolph
lukas.rudolph@ifair.eu

Nelly Stratieva
nelly.stratieva@ifair.eu

Background information at
<http://ifair.eu/en/act/impact-group-eu-asean->

Reporting: Johannes Klein, Lukas Rudolph, on behalf of IFAIR