



Parliament of Australia

**Parliamentary Delegation to the 10th Asia-Europe
Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP 10)**

Brussels, 27–28 September 2018

December 2018

Commonwealth of Australia 2018

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Members of the Delegation

Leader of the Delegation

Senator the Hon Scott Ryan
President of the Senate
Senator for Victoria
Liberal Party of Australia

Delegates

Senator Sue Lines
Deputy President of the Senate
Senator for Western Australia
Australian Labor Party

The Hon Jane Prentice MP
Member for Ryan (Qld)
Liberal Party of Australia

Official

Mr Justin Baker
Delegation Secretary

10th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP10)

The 10th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership meeting (ASEP 10) hosted by the European Parliament took place in Brussels from 27-28 September 2018. The meeting focused on the impact of climate change on three key areas: migration, the economy and security.

Participants sought to consider and debate the environmental challenges facing Asia and Europe: sustainable development and the circular economy, urban areas management, cooperating on water resources, waste treatment and plastic reduction, food security and clean technologies.

The meeting was attended by 199 registered participants from 41 countries, and involved the active participation of 84 parliamentarians from the European Parliament and the following countries: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Laos, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The European External Action Service, the European Commission, the Asia-Europe Foundation, and several other organisations and individuals with relevant expertise also participated in the meeting as guests of the European Parliament. A complete list of registered participants is available online.¹

The Australian Parliament's delegation to the meeting was led by Senator the Hon Scott

Ryan, President of the Senate, who co-chaired proceedings in the plenary. Senator Sue Lines, Deputy President of the Senate, and the Hon Jane Prentice MP were also members of the delegation.

Proceedings of each of the plenary sessions were webcast live on the European Parliament's website² and all formal proceedings of the meeting are available for download.

The ASEP meeting provided delegation members with the opportunity to exchange views with parliamentary colleagues on the increasing environmental challenges facing ASEP member countries.

Background

The Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP) meeting is the parliamentary extension of the Asian-European political dialogue, an effort to enhance relations between Europe and Asia. The most visible element of this dialogue is the biannual Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), an inter-governmental summit.

ASEM was established in 1996 as an intergovernmental process to foster political dialogue and strengthen cooperation between Asia and Europe, and to tackle political, economic, social, cultural, and educational issues of common interest, on the basis of mutual respect and equal partnership. ASEM currently comprises 51 partner countries (30 European countries, 19 Asian countries and Australia and New Zealand) and two institutional partners: the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asia Nations Secretariat.

The 12th ASEM Summit was held on 17-18 October, also in Brussels, with the theme:

¹ <http://www.epgenpro.europarl.europa.eu/static/asep10/en/participants.html>.

² <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/>.

Europe and Asia: Global Partners for Global Challenges.

ASEP's objectives

The stated objectives of ASEP are:

- a. To serve as a forum for inter-parliamentary 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.³

As one of ASEP's objectives is to influence the agenda of the ASEM summit, ASEP is usually held in the place where the summit is to be hosted, shortly before the summit, as was the case with this year's meeting.

Meeting program

The program for ASEP 10 (see Appendix 1 for full details of the program) comprised the following components:

- Preparatory and drafting committee
- Official opening
- First plenary session: Climate change, challenge for multilateralism
- Three parallel thematic sessions with discussion panels which focused on the impact of climate change and environment on economy, migration and security respectively.
- Final plenary session, including:
 - presentation on the ASEM Sustainable Connectivity Portal;

³ [Rules of Procedure](#) of Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meetings, adopted by ASEP IV, 5 May 2006.

- reporting back from the thematic sessions; and
- adoption of final declaration; and
- closing remarks.

Preparatory and Drafting Committee

Prior to the official opening of the ASEP10 meeting, one parliamentarian from each delegation was invited to participate in the preparatory and drafting committee in order to finalise the draft agenda and the final declaration to be adopted by consensus at the final plenary session. The Committee was chaired by Ms Heidi Hautala, Vice President of the European Parliament.

Senator Ryan represented the Australian Parliament on the preparatory committee, while Senator Lines and Mrs Prentice attended as observers.



Senator Ryan, pictured with representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, represented Australia on the Preparatory and Drafting Committee.

Source: Delegation secretariat

The committee considered in detail the terms of the draft declaration which had been circulated to delegates in advance of the meeting. A number of amendments were proposed and considered by the committee and several delegates took the floor to

express support for, or to oppose, proposals. The spirit of co-operation and compromise exhibited by delegates enabled a final draft to be settled so that it could be presented to the plenary for adoption on the final day of the meeting.

Official opening

ASEP 10 was officially opened by Ms Hautala, who presided over the meeting together with co-chairs Senator Ryan and Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh. The opening session took place in the European Parliament Hemicycle in the Paul-Henri Spaak building.



L to R: Senator Ryan, pictured with fellow co-chairs of the ASEP 10 meeting, Ms Heidi Hautala (Vice President, European Parliament) and Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury (Speaker, Parliament of Bangladesh).

Source: Australian Embassy, Brussels

In her opening remarks, Ms Hautala acknowledged the importance of joint declarations submitted to ASEM leaders through the ASEP process, but noted that the

many millions of citizens represented at ASEP expected their parliamentarians to be more ambitious in addressing common challenges facing Europe, Asia and beyond, to promote sustainable development.

Further opening addresses were made by Mr Yondonperenlei Baatarbileg (Parliament of Mongolia), Dr Chaudhury (Speaker, Parliament of Bangladesh); and Mr Zhang Zhijun (National People's Congress of China).

First plenary session

The topic of the first plenary session was *Climate change, challenge for multilateralism*. The presentations and statements during this session provided a foundation for the working group discussions that followed. Senator Ryan made a presentation on behalf of the Australian Parliament during this session. In his remarks, Senator Ryan acknowledged that Australia would continue to do its part to meet its international commitments, but emphasised that climate change was clearly a global problem requiring a global solution—a theme that was reinforced by delegates throughout the meeting. Further presentations were made during the opening plenary session by the following participants:

- Mr Jo Leinen (European Parliament draftsperson on climate change);
- Ms Carmen-Ileana Mihălcescu (Parliament of Romania);
- Mr Mauri Pekkarinen (Parliament of Finland);
- Mrs Rosa María Romero Sánchez (Parliament of Spain);
- Mr Phung Quoc Hien, (National Assembly, Vietnam); and
- Mr Ajay Kumar Mishra, (Parliament of India).

Contributions were then invited from the floor and a number of other delegates made statements. These statements provided an opportunity for attendees to learn about a range of mitigation and adaptation actions that were taking place in other countries to combat the impacts of climate change.

In the afternoon, three parallel thematic sessions were held. Delegation members each attended a different discussion to ensure that the Australian Parliament was represented at each session.



Senator Lines and Mrs Prentice, pictured during a short break in the first plenary session.

Source: Australian Embassy, Brussels

Thematic sessions

Discussion Panel 1: Climate change and environment: impact on economy

Mrs Prentice participated in the first discussion panel which commenced with statements from each of the co-chairs, Ms Neena Gill CBE (European Parliament) and Mr Yuan Si (National People's Congress of China).

Expert panellist Ms Lidy Nacpil, from the Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice (on behalf of Asia-Europe People's Forum), delivered a presentation on the economic impacts of climate change.

Keynote addresses were made by Mr Allen Coliban (Parliament of Romania); and Dr Chaudhury, (Parliament of Bangladesh).

Participants in this session noted that climate change is causing profound transformation not just in national economies but in the global economy. Therefore, it was agreed that an integrated approach was needed, taking into account social and economic factors and national capabilities. Delegates acknowledged that developing countries are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, but have the least resources available to tackle the issue.



Mrs Prentice, pictured during the discussion panel on the impact of climate change and environment on economy.

Source: Delegation secretariat

Discussion Panel 2: Climate change and environment: impact on migration

Senator Lines participated in the discussion panel on climate change and migration. The session was co-chaired by Ms Irina Gekht (Russian Federation) and Ms Jean Lambert (European Parliament), who each made statements to open proceedings.

Expert panellists Ms Barbara Bonciani and Ms Serena Gianfaldoni from the University of Pisa made a presentation on the consideration of the gender dimension in climate change and migration in Asia in which they addressed the particular challenges facing immigrant women.

Keynote addresses were given by Dr Nurhayati Ali Assegaf (Parliament of Indonesia) and Ms Ivelina Vassileva (Parliament of Bulgaria).

The topic of climate change and migration prompted a lively debate with a range of different perspectives presented. Some delegates agreed that there was sufficient evidence to confirm the linkage between climate change and migration – and therefore inaction was not an option, while others expressed the view that much more data and research was needed to confirm this linkage.



Senator Lines, pictured during the discussion panel on the impact of climate change and environment on migration.

Source: Delegation secretariat

Delegates also discussed the impact of extreme weather events and their contribution to population displacement and migration abroad. Some delegates noted that that challenges were being addressed in a reactive manner and emphasised the importance of taking a longer-term perspective.

Discussion Panel 3: Climate change and environment: impact on security

Senator Ryan participated in the discussion panel on the impact of climate change on security. The session was co-chaired by Ms Iveta Grigule (European Parliament) and Mr Gleb Schegelskiy (Parliament of Kazakhstan).

Keynote addresses were made by Mr Kul-Mukhammed Mukhtar (Parliament of Kazakhstan) and Mrs Ljudmila Novak (Parliament of Slovenia).

Expert panellist Mr Lukas Müller from the Asia-Europe Environment Forum reported on the results of his research and the repercussions for the climate change and security nexus. While much of the global discussion on this nexus has centred on migration (the topic of one of the other discussion panels), Mr Müller emphasised the need to identify the root causes of climate insecurity rather than seeking to address just its symptoms.

In the ensuing discussion, ASEP partners agreed that climate change posed a highly complex threat to global security. In particular, delegates highlighted the challenges arising from the impact of changing environmental conditions on freshwater resources and agricultural productivity.

Participants heard from parliamentarians about the way in which an increase in extreme weather events and natural disasters was already having a significant impact in some regions. Another potential security issue discussed related to health and in particular, the changing patterns of infectious diseases owing to climate variability.

Together, delegates heard that all of these factors threatened to undermine stability and could contribute to unrest, violent conflict, migration and terrorism.

Delegates shared experiences of measures being taken in their countries to address the security challenges posed by climate change. These exchanges highlighted not only the variety of challenges facing member countries but the vast contrast in challenges between different regions. It also prompted some discussion around whether it was desirable to have a more formal mechanism for exchanging best practices to address some of these challenges.



L to R: Senator Ryan co-chaired proceedings together with Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh and Ms Heidi Hautala, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

Source: Australian Embassy, Brussels

Plenary session with reporting back from the thematic sessions

The meeting resumed on the morning of Friday 28 September. Ms Ana Rita Neves from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre delivered a presentation on the ASEM Sustainable Connectivity Portal.⁴ The portal is

⁴ <https://composite-indicators.jrc.ec.europa.eu/asem-sustainable-connectivity/>.

an online tool which provides detailed information on individual ASEM countries and their bilateral connections with other partners, and provides a single access point to data for policymakers, researchers, businesses, citizens and other stakeholders. The portal itself was not available at the time of the ASEP meeting as it was to be officially launched on 15 October during the week of the ASEM summit.

Rapporteurs then presented summaries from each thematic session in turn. A common theme to emerge from each session was the broad acknowledgement that climate change is a global issue which requires action to be taken collectively. These sentiments were reflected in the final declaration adopted by the meeting.

Adoption of final declaration

In accordance with the ASEP rules of procedure⁵, the final declaration reflecting the concerns of ASEP partners was adopted by consensus during the final plenary session. The declaration comprised 54 clauses (see Appendix 2 for the full terms of the declaration) and reflected the substance of discussions and contributions from delegates over the course of the meeting.

The declaration reiterated the commitment of ASEP members to combat the challenges of climate change. It also recognised that the multitude of challenges facing Asian and European societies are inter-connected and can be addressed only through defining common interest between Asia and Europe in global fora and in implementing concerted actions.

⁵ *Rules of Procedure of Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meetings*, adopted by ASEP IV, 5 May 2006.

Given the role of parliaments in considering legislation to implement actions agreed through the ASEM process, the declaration called on ASEM to explore means by which ASEP members could contribute further to the ASEM process.

Final presentations and closing remarks

Final presentations were made by Mr Nicos Tornaritis (Parliament of Cyprus) and Mr Andrey Klimov (Russian Federation) at the outset of the closing session, prior to the co-chairs of the meeting making some closing remarks.

Senator Ryan noted in his closing statement that in many countries, decisions on matters around climate change are often made at a ministerial level, but parliaments play a critical role in oversight, implementation and in resourcing decisions taken by governments. He stated that this underscored the importance of meetings such as ASEP.

On behalf of the European Parliament which hosted the meeting, Ms Hautala expressed gratitude to all attendees, and remarked on the high level of cooperation between delegates. She also emphasised the need for ASEP partners to continue to work closely into the future and to give deeper consideration to the issues discussed at the meeting. Ms Hautala especially thanked delegates who had shared distressing accounts about the plight of citizens in their home countries due to recent climate-related events.

Report to ASEM

The work conducted by ASEP partners was reported to the 12th ASEM Summit of Heads of State and Governments in Brussels on 18-19 October 2018. In a statement presented to ASEM (see Appendix 3), ASEP co-chair Ms Hautala described climate change as one

of the most urgent global challenges faced by humanity today. She emphasised to ASEM delegates that ASEP partners had been ‘unanimous and very vocal in urging for quick and effective (climate) action.’

Next meeting

The ASEP 11 meeting will be held in Asia, with a host country to be determined, in 2020.

Concluding comments

The delegation from the Australian Parliament made a significant contribution to the work of ASEP 10 and one which was well-regarded by the hosts and by participants. Delegation members appreciated the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the perspectives and challenges faced by their colleagues in other countries. The sharing of case studies and best practices to increase resilience, particularly by those ASEP partners more susceptible to the impacts of climate change, provided a valuable insight and provoked interesting discussions amongst member countries.

The Australian delegation played an active role in the negotiations over the declaration which was adopted at the end of the meeting. Informal discussions with participants from member countries throughout the two days of the meeting also helped to establish and strengthen relationships with parliamentary colleagues in Asia and Europe.



Group photo of ASEP 10 delegates.

Source: European Parliament / Dominique Hommel

The delegation extends its thanks to the European Parliament for its warm hospitality and for organising and hosting a very successful meeting.

The delegation also thanks His Excellency Mr Justin Brown PSM, Australian Ambassador to Belgium, and Mr Daniel Bui, Ms Cindy Rose and Ms Lauren Bellamy from the Australian Embassy in Brussels for the excellent, high-level support the delegation received throughout its visit.

In addition, the delegation wishes to acknowledge staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra for providing written and oral briefings at short notice prior to the visit. The delegation also appreciated briefing materials prepared by the Parliamentary Library. Finally, the delegation wishes to thank Ms Fiona Way from the International and Parliamentary Relations Office who made arrangements for the meeting including logistical and other support for the travelling party.

Senator the Hon Scott Ryan

**Delegation Leader and
President of the Senate**



10th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP 10)

Brussels, 27 – 28 September 2018
European Parliament

Final program (28/09/2018)

Thursday, 27 September	
7:45 -15.00	Registration at the European Parliament (<i>Paul-Henri Spaak building</i>)
8:00 - 10:00	Preparatory and Drafting Committee (<i>English only</i>) (<i>Room: P5B001, Paul-Henri Spaak building</i>) Chaired by <u>Ms Heidi Hautala</u> , Vice-President of the European Parliament
10:30 - 11:30	Plenary session: official opening (<i>Room: Hemicycle, Paul-Henri Spaak building</i>) <u>Co-Chairs:</u> <u>Ms Heidi Hautala</u> , Vice-President of the European Parliament, <u>Hon Scott Ryan</u> , President of the Australian Senate and <u>Ms Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury</u> , Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament <u>Mr Yondonperenlei Baatarbileg</u> , Member of the Parliament and Chair of Standing Committee of the Parliament of Mongolia for Social Policy, Education, Culture and Science, State Great Hural of Mongolia, (Host of the ASEP 9 meeting) <u>Ms Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury</u> , Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament <u>Mr Zhang Zhijun</u> , Vice-Chairman, Committee of Foreign Affairs, National People's Congress of China

11:30 - 12:30	<p>Plenary session: Climate change, challenge for multilateralism <i>(Room: Hemicycle, Paul-Henri Spaak building)</i> <u>Ms Heidi Hautala</u>, Vice-President of the European Parliament <u>Mr Jo Leinen</u>, EP draftsman on climate change and Chair of the EP Delegation for relations with China <u>Hon Scott Ryan</u>, President of the Australian Senate <u>Ms Carmen-Ileana Mihalcescu</u>, Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies, Romanian Parliament <u>Ms Rosa María Romero Sánchez</u>, 3rd Vice Speaker of the Congress of Deputies, Spain <u>Mr Mauri Pekkarinen</u>, 1st Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Finland <u>Mr Phung Quoc Hien</u>, Vice-President of the National Assembly, Vietnam <u>Mr Ajay Kumar Mishra</u>, Lok Sabha, India</p>
12:30 - 12:45	<p>The ASEP 10 Family Photo</p>
12:45 - 13:00	<p>Press Point with <u>Ms Heidi Hautala</u>, Vice-President of the European Parliament and <u>Ms Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury</u>, Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament</p>
13:00 - 14:30	<p>Lunch/Bufferet hosted by the European Parliament <i>(Yehudi Menuhin space, Paul-Henri Spaak building)</i></p>
15:00 - 17:30	<p>Asia & Europe facing climate change and increasing environmental challenges: <i>sustainable development and circular economy, urban areas management, water resources cooperation, waste treatment and plastic reduction, food security, clean technologies</i></p>

<p><i>Discussion Panel 1 (Room: Hemicycle, Paul-Henri Spaak building³)</i></p> <p>Climate change and environment: impact on economy</p> <p>Co-Chairs: <u>Mr Yuan Si</u>, Vice-Chairman, Committee of environmental protection and resources conservation, National People's Congress of China <u>Ms Neena Gill</u>, 1st Vice-Chair Delegation for Relations with India, European Parliament</p> <p>Expert: <u>Ms Lidy Nacpil</u>, Coordinator - Asian Peoples Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD) and Co-Coordinator - Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice, on behalf of Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF)</p> <p>Key note speakers: <u>Mr Allen Coliban</u>, Chairman, Committee for Environment, Romania <u>Ms Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury</u>, Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament</p> <p><i>Discussion Panel 2 (room: P5B001, Paul-Henri Spaak building⁴)</i></p> <p>Climate change and environment: impact on migration</p> <p>Co-Chairs: <u>Ms Irina Gekht</u>, Deputy Chairperson of the Federation Council Committee for Agrarian and Food Policy and Environmental Management, Russian Federation <u>Ms Jean Lambert</u>, Chair of the Delegation for Relations with South Asia, European Parliament</p>
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	<p>Experts: <u>Ms Barbara Bonciani & Ms Serena Gianfaldoni</u>, professors, University of Pisa</p> <p>Key note speakers: <u>Mrs Assegaf Nurhayati Ali</u>, Chairperson of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, Indonesia <u>Ms Ivelina Vassileva</u>, Chairperson of the Environment and Water Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria</p> <p><i>Discussion Panel 3</i> (room: P7C050, Paul-Henri Spaak building⁵)</p> <p>Climate change and environment: impact on security</p> <p>Co-Chairs: <u>Mr Gleb Chshegelskiy</u>, Chairman of Committee on Ecology Issues And Environmental Management Kazakhstan <u>Ms Iveta Grigule-Pēterse</u>, Chair of the Delegation for relations with Central Asia, European Parliament</p> <p>Expert: <u>Mr Lukas Müller</u>, research associate with the Asia-Europe Environment Forum under ASEF (Asia-Europe Foundation)</p> <p>Key note speakers: <u>Mr Kul-Mukhammed Mukhtar</u>, Senate of Kazakhstan <u>Mrs Ljudmila Novak</u>, Member of the Slovenian Parliament</p>
18:00	<p>Visits of the House of European History for official delegates</p> <p>Dinner/Buffet at the House of European History</p>

Friday, 28 September	
9:00 - 9:45	<p>Plenary session: The ASEM Sustainable Connectivity Portal - presentation by <u>Ms Ana Rita Neves</u>, Joint Research Centre (JRC) followed by question & answer session (<i>Room: Hemicycle, Paul-Henri Spaak building</i>)</p> <p>Co-Chairs: <u>Hon Scott Ryan</u>, President of the Australian Senate and <u>Ms Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury</u>, Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament</p>
	<p>Plenary session, with reporting back from the Thematic sessions (<i>Room: Hemicycle, Paul-Henri Spaak building</i>)</p> <p>Co-Chairs: <u>Ms Heidi Hautala</u>, Vice-President of the European Parliament, <u>Hon Scott Ryan</u>, President of the Australian Senate and <u>Ms Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury</u>, Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament</p>
9:45 - 10:30	<p><i>Discussion Panel 1</i> Presentation by the Rapporteur <u>Mr Francesco Giacobbe</u>, Member of Senate, Senate of Italy</p>
10:30 - 11:15	<p><i>Discussion Panel 2</i> Presentation by the Rapporteur <u>Mr Chhit Kim Yeat</u>, Vice Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Senate of Cambodia</p>
11:15 - 12:00	<p><i>Discussion Panel 3</i> Presentation by the Rapporteur <u>Mr Murat Bakhtiyaruly</u>, Member of Senate, Senate of Kazakhstan</p>
12:00 - 12:10	Adoption of the Declaration of the ASEP 10

12:10 - 12:30	<p>Closing session</p> <p><u>Mr Nicos Tornaritis</u>, Deputy Chairman, House of Representatives Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, Cyprus; Vice-President, Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Chairman, Standing Committee on Economic & Sustainable Development of the APA, Head of the Cyprus APA delegation</p> <p><u>Mr Andrey Klimov</u>, Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council Committee for Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation</p> <p><i>Closing remarks</i> by the Co-Chairs <u>Hon Scott Ryan</u>, President of the Australian Senate and <u>Ms Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury</u>, Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament</p> <p><i>Closing remarks</i> by <u>Ms Heidi Hautala</u>, Vice-President of the European Parliament</p>
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Declaration of the Tenth Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting

**27-28 September 2018,
Brussels, European Union**

1. The Tenth Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP 10) was held on 27-28 September 2018 in Brussels, European Union, focussing on climate change and environmental challenges as a priority for the planet and of multilateralism as a fair methodology to shape advanced and equitable international relationships. During the Meeting three panels were held on the impact of climate change and environmental challenges on security, migration and economy.
2. The meeting was presided by Ms Heidi Hautala, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Ms Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh, and Mr Scott Ryan, President of the Senate of Australia, involved the active participation of Parliamentarians from ASEM countries - Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Laos, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, Vietnam and the European Parliament. The European External Action Service, the European Commission, the Asia-Europe Foundation, as well as representatives of several other organizations and experts also took part in this event as guests of the host parliament.
3. ASEP 10 welcomes the outcome of the 2016 meeting, held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and praised the inter-parliamentary cooperation shaped by all the previous meetings of ASEP in Strasbourg (1996), Manila (2002), Hue City (2004), Helsinki (2006), Beijing (2008), Brussels (2010), Vientiane (2012) and Rome (2014). Each ASEP has deeply contributed to paving the way for a direct

dialogue among legislators and citizens' representatives across Asia and Europe, forging a strong Asia-Europe Partnership.

Global governance in time of changes and role of ASEM

4. ASEP 10 pays tribute to the successful collective efforts made by several countries and their citizens, in promoting a safer environment, with more access to education for all, more food security, more space for free expression of their people, increased gender equality and peace; ASEP 10 believes that positive results need to be welcomed being also a promising perspective for much needed further efforts.
5. ASEP 10 considers that the partnership established between Asia and Europe in discussing and cooperating on any global relevant issue in the political sphere is a remarkable achievement in itself; the entire ASEM process, of which ASEP is a fundamental part, prove to be an indispensable bridge between both regions on an increasingly articulated and interconnected world.
6. While acknowledging achievements, ASEP 10 fully recognizes that Asian and European societies face a plurality of challenges directly affecting the life and hopes of citizens, constantly confronted with a mutating social, economic and security environment; therefore ASEP stresses the need to address a complex and uncertain landscape which keeps moving and encompasses a variety of critical challenges, such as terrorism, old and new conflicts, refugees, migration, climate change, market disruptions, financial and fiscal distortions, social and gender inequalities, human rights abuse, organised crime, natural disasters and other humanitarian crisis, technological gap and other critical issues; ASEP is firmly convinced that those challenges are inter-connected and that can be effectively addressed only through defining common interest between Asia and Europe in global fora and in implementing concerted actions.
7. ASEP 10 expresses its concern with recent developments in the international community which could undermine an effective global cooperation and underlines the importance of reinforcing, and not weakening, multilateral cooperation through different international fora and international agreements - in trade, climate change, security, ocean governance, trafficking of people and of narcotics, and other key sectors; ASEP 10 believes that both Asia and Europe, representing more about 60% of world population and world GDP,

must re-affirm the common objective of promoting multilateralism as the most effective and fair methodology in addressing common issues.

Developing the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership

8. ASEP 10 emphasises that Asia and Europe are by many aspects and certainly in a strict geographic concept, part of a same area; peoples movements, cultural identities and origins, trades, political relations, have been shaping a common ground for centuries; the Euro-Asian dimension is not just a rhetoric formula but is a human landscape facing the same inter-dependent destiny.
9. ASEP 10 confirms the role of ASEM in providing a unique platform bridging Europe and Asia and shaping a partnership which is of strategic importance in time of disruption of global governance and of challenges to multilateralism mechanism.
10. ASEP 10 recalls that ASEM partnership is fully based on the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights and the United Nations Charter and the United Nations on Human Rights as well as respect for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, self-determination of peoples, non-interference in internal affairs and non-use of force or threat of force.
11. ASEP 10 believes that the ASEM partnership is complementary and part of the joint efforts in reinforcing multilateral cooperation at UN, WTO and other multilateral levels.
12. ASEP 10 welcomes the deepening of activities, both horizontal and sectorial of the ASEM partnership, and encourages further cooperation between the regions in order to achieve dialogue aimed to reinforced political, economic and socio-cultural cooperation.
13. ASEP 10 also stresses that the ASEM partnership can be successful only if the citizens' concerns are fully taken into account in its agenda; this requires a structural dialogue between the executive level and the parliamentary dimension, which needs to fully play its scrutiny role.
14. ASEP 10 also encourages the role of civil society organisations, business associations, trade unions and media in forging better understanding and pluralism and in providing economic and human

development of Asian and European societies. ASEP 10 expresses its concern over efforts to censor media.

15. ASEP 10 calls for the establishment of mechanism empowering its members to have more regular contacts, in order to provide a better parliamentary follow-up of ASEM related activities.

Climate changes and environmental challenges

16. ASEP 10 reminds that science has provided early warnings about the consequences of climate change on human vulnerabilities and on the overall future of the planet, yet policies have only been able to partially address the issue; therefore ASEP 10 recalls that climate change is one of the most important challenges for mankind and that all states and players worldwide need to do their utmost to fight it; ASEP 10 calls upon all countries to fully implement the Paris Agreement including the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
17. ASEP 10 stresses that, according to the WHO, UNFCC as part of JLG, SDGs a part of UN knowledge, climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health - clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter - and that between 2030 and 2050, 250 000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress, are expected with extreme high air temperatures contributing directly to deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory disease.
18. ASEP 10 calls for the highest political commitment to the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement in all its aspects, including, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity-building and transparency of actions and support, in reflection of equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities.
19. ASEP 10 emphasizes the urgency and priority of acceleration the implementation of pre-2020 commitments and actions to build mutual trust among the implementation of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.
20. ASEP 10 stresses that commitments under the Paris Agreement to limit the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to further pursue efforts of limitation of

temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, as well as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the second half of this century, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

21. ASEP 10 stresses that the completion of the Paris Agreement Work programme at COP24 in Katowice this December will be crucial to providing certainty and confidence to governments and business and that effective guidance on all elements of the Paris Agreement Work Programme will drive future ambition and ensure finance and investment can flow towards its implementation.
22. ASEP 10 recalls that the Paris Agreement requires all Parties to take action to conserve and enhance sinks, including forests; ASEP 10 stresses that deforestation and forest degradation are the second leading cause of global warming and are responsible for global greenhouse gas emissions, and emphasises the importance of taking the right policy approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests in order to deliver both carbon and non-carbon benefits.
23. ASEP 10 notes that halting deforestation and forest degradation and allowing forests to regrow would provide a significant part of all mitigation action needed to limit global warming to below 2°C.
24. ASEP 10 recalls that limiting the rise in global temperature to well below 2°C does not guarantee that significant adverse climate impacts will be avoided. ASEP 10 stresses therefore that global GHG emissions should reach their peak as soon as possible and that all Parties should step up their efforts and upgrade their Nationally Determined Contributions and to strengthen efforts over time, in accordance with the purpose and provisions of the Paris Agreement. Developed country parties shall provide financial resource to assist developing country Parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation in continuation of their existing obligation under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. ASEP 10 countries look forward to participating in the “3talanoa Dialogue” at COP24 and sharing stories about climate action that will help all countries identify pathways for ambition and inform the Nationality Determined Contributions.
25. ASEP 10 recalls that climate change adaptation action is an inevitable necessity for all countries if they are to minimise negative effects and

make full use of the opportunities for climate-resilient growth and sustainable development.

26. ASEP 10 urges actions to be taken to address climate change adaptation through a combination of multiple factors, including compatible and well-coordinated regional, national and local strategies, strengthening of capacity and resilience mechanism of populations and ecosystems by reducing the vulnerability of natural and human structures with early warning systems, sea defences, resettlement of inhabitants away from flood zones, and a specific measure to counter-balance possible negative effects of those measures on certain populations.
27. ASEP 10 expresses the need to set ambitious goals on production and consumption of plastic, particularly single-use plastic items, and invites ASEM to consider firm recommendations in this direction towards achieving significant progress to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (Goal 12 of the Sustainable Development Goals).
28. ASEP 10 expresses its serious concern about the continuing loss of biodiversity which has an overwhelming intrinsic value that must be protected for the benefit of future generations, and stresses the critical role of biodiversity in the Sustainable Development Goals.
29. ASEP 10 calls on government and relevant and international organisations to coordinate approaches to development and to recognise effective action on climate change in order to shape an integrated policy, consolidating approaches on climate change and the defence of global environment diplomacy.
30. ASEP 10 underlines that climate change and environmental distress may generate greater social impacts and therefore calls for economic and social empowerment of people through sustainable development to prevent dramatic situations of social conflict.
31. ASEP 10 urges for a comprehensive action to be taken in managing the development of urban areas, as well as smart cities in compliance with energy efficiency not only megalopolis but also middle and small size cities, where the majority of inhabitants live and where sustainable development and minimum standards of quality of living require adequate funding and actions on waste management and water management, use of renewable energies both on large and small scale, smart mobility, digital connectivity and appropriate mechanism for local community involvement in the decision-making process.

32. ASEP 10 believes that Asian and European stakeholders should increase an exchange of best practices on sustainable urban development and its impact on climate change, both in terms of legislation and of technology, further enhancing cooperation among political, academic and business actors.
33. ASEP 10 is alarmed by the magnitude of natural disasters and by the fact that hundreds of millions of people, particularly women and children, are extremely vulnerable to natural calamities, namely earthquakes, storms, tsunamis, and severe floods and droughts, which put sustainable development at risk. In this regard, it is the duty of the parliamentarians to emphasize the importance of ensuring disaster risk reduction, and that disaster management is well integrated into development and poverty reduction strategies as well as in regional and international cooperation.
34. ASEP 10 reiterates that parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.
35. ASEP 10 underlines the need to focus on the complex links between climate change and displacement. ASEP 10 invites stakeholders, including ASEM governments and parliaments, to further develop understanding of the drivers and solutions for displacement caused by climate change.
36. ASEP 10 emphasises that management of water resources represents a crucial challenge to the survival of humankind, and it is also a sensitive factor for potential instability, being one of the source of conflicts and of the lack of adequate joint governance; ASEP 10 urges governments to enforce ambitious programmes for both internal and cross-border water cooperation and to shape a water-diplomacy based on advanced cooperation and joint governance of water resources; ASEP 10 recalls the findings of the United Nations Security Council Open Session on Water, Peace and Security, held on 22 November 2016. ASEP 10 believes that cooperation on water resources is also a leading factor for mitigation of climate changes impact on security, migration and well-being of population.
37. ASEP 10 recalls the right of citizens to achieve safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene

through environmental policies in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 6.

38. ASEP 10 reiterates a previous ASEP request for pushing for the capitalisation of European and Asian experiences of sustainable plant based development of food systems, with special regard to the role of small farming agriculture, of small and medium entrepreneurs and of inclusive, multilevel and coherent policies especially at local level. In this regard, a particular focus should be given to family farming and the role of women and young people. ASEP 10 draws attention to the importance of healthy and rich oceans, and sustainable blue growth. ASEP 10 underscores the importance of tackling challenges related to maritime ocean governance due to climate change, as well as unsustainable use of living marine resources, including illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (UUF), on the environment and the economy. Furthermore, ASEP 10 stressed the importance of long term elimination of discharge of litter and micro-plastic to the oceans and the need to move towards green shipping.
39. ASEP 10 maintains that a comprehensive approach to the entire cycle of food production and consumption is crucial and that in this perspective a balanced ecosystem - based on halting and reversing land degradation and biodiversity loss, including in crop production - must be pursued to protect the health of living beings, ensuring that the long-term guardianship of the landscape as a result of human activity on earth.
40. ASEP 10 calls ASEM governments, international institutions and the private sector to step up efforts to safeguard food security while taking action to combat climate change and for a cleaner and healthier environment. ASEP 10 welcomes efforts by international organisations, including the UN agencies the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to contribute to climate action.

Human Rights

41. Approaching the 70th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights, ASEP 10 reiterates its unwavering commitment to universal human rights and its resolve to strengthen the international system based on human rights, effective multilateral institutions and international cooperation underpinned by UN institutions, mechanisms and procedures; underlines its commitment to independent national and regional human rights institutions and mechanisms.

42. ASEP 10 parliamentarians underline that respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law and the fight against corruption are fundamental building blocks of just, equitable and inclusive societies in Asia and Europe that need to seek common ground through dialogue, cooperation and partnership.

Security cooperation

43. ASEP 10 underlines the crucial goal of providing peace, stability and a safe environment to all countries; recalls the need to preventing conflicts through peaceful means in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and by respecting the sovereignty independence and territorial integrity of each state. ASEP 10 stresses the role of the UN Security Council in this respect.
44. ASEP 10 reiterates its full support to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action concerning the Iranian nuclear programme and believes that only mutual trust, cooperation and engagement through an increase of diplomatic, trade and people-to-people relations, can provide a stable and peaceful landscape.
45. ASEP 10 reiterates the vital importance and urgency of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).
46. ASEP 10 considers in a positive way recent diplomatic initiatives in Korean peninsula and reiterates its concern on the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes; invites all Member States to fully respect the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and agree to a constructive plan aimed to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and supports efforts aimed at peaceful co-existence and trust building measures amongst countries of the region in general and concretely replacing the truce by a peace treaty ending officially the Korean war.
47. ASEP 10 although welcomes the decision of the DPRK leadership to introduce a moratorium on nuclear and missile tests from April 21, 2018, invites all countries to make efforts in order to achieve a lasting and stable peace regime in this region via trust-building measures amongst the countries involved;
48. ASEP 10 also underlines the importance of promoting equal and indivisible security and believes that security and mutual trust mechanisms should be updated in order to limit the increase of military expenditures and pay more funds for human development.

49. ASEP 10 expresses its utmost concern to the situation of the Rohingya people, and calls on all involved parties and international donors to step up assistance to refugees and, notably on the authorities of Myanmar, to provide a safe environment for the reintegration and the development of those communities.

Trade relations

50. ASEP 10 reaffirms the central importance of international rules-based open, free, transparent and non-discriminatory trade, through a multilateral system and realisation on sustainable develop agenda and ensuring that multilaterally agreed rules are uniformly applied; in this context the WTO role is key, functioning as a negotiating forum for its members and providing a platform for open discussion on global trade related issues; joint commitment of WTO members is needed in the current global context to preserve the efficiency and the central role of the WTO, if needed, through appropriate reforms. ASEP 10 also notes this is consistent with the aim of multilateral trading system integrated and mutually supportive with the realisation of the sustainable development agenda to the maximum extent.
51. ASEP 10 calls for appropriate implementation of core ILO labour standards, sustainable environmental impact, fiscal fairness, the fight against corruption and transparent and equitable dispute settlement mechanisms; countries should also refrain from introducing trade-distorting or protectionist measures - tariff and non-tariff barriers - and should strive towards the elimination where such measures are in place, this being a necessary precondition for a further strengthening of trade and investment ties between all ASEM members.

Final Clauses

52. ASEP 10 charges the Chairs of the Meeting to report its deliberation to the ASEM leaders during the ASEM 12 Summit of Heads of State and Governments meeting in Brussels on 18-19 October 2018
53. ASEP 10 expresses its gratitude to the European Parliament the efficient organisation and the hospitality provided in organising the meeting.
54. ASEP 10 agrees that ASEP 11 Meeting will be held in Asia, and looks forward to the 2020 gathering.

Brussels, 28 September 2018



Statement by
Ms Heidi Hautala,
Vice-President of the European Parliament at the 12th ASEM Summit
18 October 2018

Your Excellencies,

The European Parliament had the privilege to host on 27 and 28 September 2018 the Asia Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting. About 150 members from 38 parliaments participated. Several parliament Speakers and Deputy Speakers, representing over 60% of the world population and GDP, attended this important institutional event, which we hardly can define a "side event" of the ASEM process.

As much as we missed the direct contribution to our work of representatives from the executive, I am pleased now to report to you about our work. I also want to convey the greetings of the President of the European Parliament, Mr Antonio Tajani, and of the Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh, Ms Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, who co-chaired ASEP 10 with the President of the Australian Senate, Mr Scott Ryan, and with myself.

As "global partners for global challenges", we legislators decided to explore the impact of climate change on the economy, migration and security. Climate change is one of the most urgent global challenges humanity faces today. Our 54 points Joint Declaration reflects our concerns.

ASEP 10 called upon all countries for the highest political commitment to the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement in all its aspects, including mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and recalled that limiting the rise in global temperature to well below 2°C does not guarantee that significant adverse climate impacts will be avoided.

ASEP partners were unanimous and very vocal in urging for quick and effective action. Climate action is more urgent than ever. We are all being affected already.

Scientific evidence is overwhelming. Unfortunately an important global player has decided to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and other international instruments. Therefore, it is all the more important that Asia and Europe stand firm in our support for climate action with the necessary financial means.

However, climate action does not need to be a burden. The green economy and the circular economy have a huge potential for job creation and sustainable growth.

In these times of change and uncertainties, ASEP 10 promoted multilateralism and cooperation for a rules-based global order, including trade, control of nuclear proliferation and active promotion of human rights and assistance of people in danger - such as the Rohingya with their unacceptable fate.

On all those issues the increase of ASEM cooperation is very welcome, but please do not forget that when it comes to implementing actions, you will most probably need parliaments to pass the necessary legislation. Therefore, ASEP 10 calls on ASEM to explore ways in which legislators can contribute to the ASEM process for more than three minutes every two years.

I look forward the result of ASEM summit, and on behalf of ASEP 10, I wish you a very fruitful meeting.

Heidi Hautala
Vice President of the European Parliament and co-chair of ASEP 10