



Asia-Europe Meeting

## **ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)**

**22-23 June 2017, 'The Hotel', Brussels**

### **Draft agenda**

As of 11 May 2017

#### **1. Adoption of Agenda**

*Delegations will have the opportunity to request changes to the draft agenda, if not notified to the Chair prior to the meeting*

#### **2. Business Arrangements**

*The Chair will go through the handling of the meeting, including the programme*

#### **3. Strategic orientations on the future of ASEM and preparations of the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting**

##### **(1) Relevance of ASEM in a fast-changing global context**

– Enhancing the ASEM "experience"

- *Recent international developments have enhanced the importance of ASEM as a key component of the rules-based international order. Europe and Asia have a shared interest in ensuring ASEM's continued relevance and enhanced credibility. Accordingly, ASEM partners should discuss how to inject new dynamism into ASEM so that it can reach its full potential. What works well and what needs changing?*
- *Ensuring ASEM moves with the times requires efficient working methods and substantive agendas, focused on strategic challenges where ASEM can make a difference. Conversely, sticking to 'business as usual' will mean foregoing the opportunities for ASEM renewal that exist. When asked individually, numerous ASEM members agreed that reforming and streamlining the ASEM process is desirable. What changes are necessary and feasible? Ideas for reform should extend to exploring possible new ways to build consensus on often diverse ideas, while respecting ASEM's underlying values of equal partnership.*



– Chair's Statement

- *The case for shorter, more focused ASEM statements is strong. Future ASEM statements could accordingly concentrate on setting out key principles and avoid re-negotiating issues that are already being dealt with in other fora. As we prepare for the next ASEM FMM, SOM Leaders should discuss what sort of outcome document they wish to see (length, structure, substantive focus).*

– Other issues

(2) ASEM as a platform for strategic cooperation

- Report from the 1st meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC), held in Brussels on 21 June 2017
- ASEM and strategic cooperation on global issues
  - *SOM Leaders will have a preliminary discussion, with input from Myanmar as host of the meeting, on a provisional agenda for the 13th ASEM FMM (including items for the Retreat) and the tentative Programme of Activities, fostering focused discussions and common messaging on critical global challenges, including Connectivity, trade and investment, climate change, but also broad security challenges such as counter-terrorism, migration, maritime security and cyber issues.*

(3) ASEM initiatives and future meetings

- *Partners are invited to provide information – preferably in writing before the SOM – on upcoming ASEM initiatives and meetings they wish to organise.*

**Current ASEM Ministerial Calendar:**

**2017**

- *6th ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting (ASEM EMM6), Seoul, South Korea, 21-22 September 2017*
- *4th ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (ASEM TMM4), Bali, Indonesia, 26-28 September 2017*
- *6th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME6), Seoul, South Korea, 21-22 November 2017*

## **2018**

- *13th Asia-Europe Finance Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FinMM13), Bulgaria (date to be confirmed)*

### **Future ASEM Ministerial Meetings for consideration in 2018**

- *8th ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting (ASEM CMM8) – 7th meeting held in Seoul, South Korea, 24-24 June 2016*
- *6th ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers' Conference (ASEM LEMC6) – 5th meeting held in Sofia, Bulgaria, 3-4 December 2015, no meeting held in 2017*

#### **(4) 20th anniversary of ASEF**

- *The ASEF Director will give an overview of recent and future ASEF projects and activities to promote greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. SOM Leaders are invited to comment on ASEF's future work and its link with the ASEM process.*

#### **4. Any other business**

*Delegations are invited to inform the Chair in advance of any points they wish to raise under AOB.*