The European Union’s relations with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN): Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam date back to 1977 when official “Dialogue Relations” began. On June 2015, the EU confirmed the adoption of a new strategy “The EU and ASEAN: a partnership with a strategic purpose”. In August 2017 during the EU-ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference, the second EU-ASEAN Plan of Action (2018-2022) was agreed.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

The EU has concluded negotiations for Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with Singapore and with Vietnam and is negotiating FTAs with several other ASEAN countries (Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines).

In March 2017, the EU and ASEAN agreed to take new steps towards resuming talks for this region-to-region agreement.

POLITICAL, SECURITY AND DEFENCE-RELATED COOPERATION

In July 2012, the EU acceded to ASEAN’s Treaty of Amity and Cooperation. The EU and ASEAN work together to enhance crisis response and disaster management, including through EU support to the ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Assistance. In October 2015 the first EU-ASEAN Policy Dialogue on Human Rights took place. A second edition of the Dialogue was held in Philippines, in November 2017. The EU organises with ASEAN High Level Dialogues on Maritime Security.

The EU has also co-chaired a number of initiatives in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) framework, including Meetings on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, the Defence Officials Dialogue.
The EU is a major development partner of ASEAN and the biggest donor to the ASEAN Secretariat with some €200 million of regional funding. This comes in addition to bilateral cooperation, which will amount to over €2 billion in the period 2014-2020.

The new Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument programme (E-READI) with €20 million supports policy dialogues and experience sharing between the EU and ASEAN.

The EU supports with €85 million the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 in the areas of trade facilitation, standards conformance, customs and transport, civil aviation, intellectual property rights, statistics and integration monitoring.

The EU-ASEAN Migration and Border Management Programme started in 2015 (€3.4 million) supports the exchange of information between immigration officials in ASEAN capitals and the easing of visa requirements for ASEAN and non-ASEAN nationals within the region.

€60 million of EU funds over the period 2014-2020 will support initiatives and projects tackling climate change and environmental issues.

The EU Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region project (SHARE) is supporting the creation of an ASEAN Inter-University Network through €10 million in funding.