



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 5.2.2016
C(2016) 738 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Joint Communication of the Commission and the High Representative 'The EU and ASEAN: a partnership with a strategic purpose' {JOIN(2015) 22 final}.

The Commission welcomes the support that the Opinion expresses towards the strategic objective of strengthening the EU's engagement with ASEAN, in a wide range of areas, ranging from deeper economic ties and inter-regional connectivity enhanced cooperation on (non-traditional) security issues including maritime security and counter-terrorism, to seizing new opportunities for collaboration on investment and research.

In Council Conclusions of June 2015, EU Member States underlined that 'the EU has a genuine strategic interest in strengthening its relationship with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), a major contributor for stability in the Asia-Pacific region. A strong and cohesive ASEAN proceeding with its own integration is beneficial for regional prosperity, stability and security, and creates new opportunities for cooperation on regional and global challenges'.

The Council also welcomed the new momentum in EU-ASEAN relations and underlined the EU's commitment to supporting ASEAN regional integration and further deepening relations. The Council called on the High Representative and the Commission to work on the implementation of the priorities identified above and in the Joint Communication, in close cooperation with the EU Member States.

Since June 2015, the EEAS and the Commission services have been working actively on the implementation of the proposals and commitments contained in the Joint Communication, with a view to lifting the overall partnership to a higher level in the years ahead.

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The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Federica Mogherini
High Representative/Vice-President*