



Lessons and Reflections on Regionalisation: Presentation of Asian and European Perspectives to Young Parliamentarians

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Monday 12 February 2007, Singapore – **Ambassador Rodolfo Severino, Former Secretary General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations** and **Ambassador Bernhard Zepter, Former Deputy Secretary-General of the European Commission and EC Ambassador to Japan** will present their perspectives on the lessons and reflections on regionalisation to an audience of 90 Young Parliamentarians from Asia and Europe, and the public as a keynote address at the 6th Young Parliamentarians Meeting in the Hague, Netherlands. Through an analysis and stock-taking of the multi-dimensional and multi-layered process of regionalisation in each region, this public presentation will deliver the perspectives of these long-time insiders in the respective integration processes.

The Sixth Asia-Europe Young Parliamentarians Meeting¹ (AEYPM6) will be held from 26 February to 2 March 2007 in The Hague, Netherlands. This edition titled, “*Towards an Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership*” takes on the issue of pursuing a sustainable future whilst meeting the needs of today. Themes that will be discussed include migration and community building, education and knowledge-based societies, security issues and civil liberties. Young Parliamentarians from Asia and Europe will have the opportunity to compare best practices so as to create new benchmarks in an evolving society in the 21st century. They will discuss the shifting paradigms in Asia-Europe relations and be challenged to change perceptions and gain new perspectives. This meeting is co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Institute for Asian Studies, and is hosted by the Netherlands House of Representatives.

With this keynote address in the Hague, the two leaders of Asia and Europe would have spent two weeks in February of 2007, presenting “Lessons and Reflections on Regionalisation: Asian and European Perspectives” to an audience in Paris, Brussels, Berlin, Dublin, Warsaw, and London. Audience have the unique opportunity to closely interact, meet and confer with these two individuals who will offer a close-up view of the day-to-day issues confronting both regions in their intricate processes of integration and regionalisation. In doing so, they will also share their reflections on the future of the two regions.

ASEF Governor to the Netherlands, Mr Paul Brouwer expressed, “I am delighted that the 6th Asia Europe Young Parliamentarians Meeting in the Hague will be able to welcome the Ambassadors Rodolfo Severino and Bernhard Zepter, who will speak on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of ASEF. Their keynote speeches on regionalisation processes in Asia and Europe will widen the scope of the Parliamentarians meeting and will contribute to the success of that meeting. I congratulate the Asia Europe Foundation for bringing together these two excellent initiatives in the interest of a better understanding between Asia and Europe.”

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DATE : Tuesday, 27 February 2007
TIME : 10:00 am – 12:30pm
VENUE : House of Representatives
Lange Poten 4, The Hague
CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Diederik Samsom (Dutch MP)

PLEASE RSVP BY EMAIL TO ias@let.leidenuniv.nl

¹ Five successful AEYPM meetings have been held in the Philippines, Portugal, Indonesia, Italy and China respectively. The AEYPM aims to foster high-level exchange of ideas and intensive networking between young parliamentarians from Asia and Europe.

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Asia-Europe Foundation | In March 1996, fifteen European leaders, ten East Asian leaders and the President of the European Commission convened in Bangkok, Thailand, for the inaugural Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). At this historic ASEM Summit, the leaders from the two continents agreed to forge a comprehensive partnership and strengthen links between the two regions for mutual benefit. To carry out the mission set out by the leaders, the 1st ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting (Singapore) launched the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) on 15 February 1997. Its mission is to promote understanding between the peoples of Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. In the last ten years of operation, ASEF has implemented over 300 projects bringing together more than 13,000 participants through our projects and a much wider public audience in

various countries of Asia and Europe. Since the 5th ASEM Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam (October 2004), the membership has expanded to 39 to include the 10 accession states of the European Union as well as Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. Year 2007 will be another historic year as we will see the next round of enlargement, whereby India, Pakistan, Mongolia, the ASEAN Secretariat, Romania, and Bulgaria will join the ASEM process and subsequently the Asia-Europe Foundation as six new members, increasing the membership to a total of 45. <http://www.asef.org>



The International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) | The International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) is a postdoctoral research centre based in Leiden and Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Our main objective is to encourage the interdisciplinary and comparative study of Asia and to promote national and international cooperation in the field. The institute focuses on the human and social sciences and on their interaction with other sciences.

The IIAS acts as an international mediator, bringing various parties together. In keeping with the Dutch tradition of transferring goods and ideas, the IIAS works as a clearinghouse of knowledge and information. This entails activities such as providing information services, constructing international networks, and setting up international cooperative projects and research programmes. In this way, the IIAS functions as a window on Europe for non-European scholars and contributes to the cultural rapprochement between Asia and Europe. <http://www.iias.nl>



The parliament in the Netherlands consists of a House of Representatives (Tweede Kamer) and a Senate (Eerste Kamer).

Since 1956 the constitution stipulates that the House of Representatives should consist of 150 members and the Senate of 75 members. The members of the House are directly elected by the people. Elections usually take place every four years.

One of the main tasks of the Tweede Kamer is to monitor government. Another significant task of the Tweede Kamer is to enact legislation and amend existing legislation to changing circumstances, together with the government and the Senate.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates and carries out Dutch foreign policy at its headquarters in The Hague and through its missions abroad. It is likewise the channel through which the Dutch Government communicates with foreign governments and international organisations. Every hour of every day, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs promotes the interests of the Kingdom abroad. As a country that looks beyond its borders, the Netherlands is committed to promoting the international legal order and building a safe, stable and prosperous world. We are dedicated to eliminating conflict, poverty and injustice. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs works with the other ministries to help shape the Europe of the future and ensure that the Netherlands speaks with one voice in the European Union.