

Abstract

The EU's external relations with Asia are still underpinned by the 2001 European Commission Communication "Europe and Asia: a strategic framework for enhanced partnership". This Communication was released just before the events of September 11. With the tremendous changes that have taken place both in Europe and Asia, and globally, and with the passage of the Lisbon Treaty aimed at shoring up the EU's identity and capacity to act on the world stage, this lecture will ask if a more coherent EU strategy towards the Asia region, particularly the Southeast Asian (SEA) region, is feasible and opportune. At the same time, the presentation will review the EU's engagement of Asia in the past, the broadening scope of EU instruments and policies towards Asia, and sketch possible outlines of future EU-Asia strategy in the new, multi-polar world.

Please
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by 11 January 2010.

Thank you.

Public Talk

Does the EU need a new Asia strategy?

By Mr Alain RUCHE

Deputy Head of Unit, DG External Relations, European Commission

About the Speaker

Alain Ruche is currently Deputy Head of Unit in the Directorate for External Relations, European Commission. He has more than 30 years experience in university research and international organisations, including the World Bank, International Labor Organization, United Nations and in the European Commission (EC).

A Belgian, Mr Ruche graduated with a postgraduate degree in development economics from the University of Louvain, Belgium. He has wide ranging expertise in a number of policy areas under the European Commission, including social and economic policies, planning, evaluation, regional integration, trade, and development cooperation. He has also taught on EU-Asia relations, EU integration and Disaster Preparedness at universities in Belgium, Latin America and Africa, and researched on sustainable development and energy.

His recent papers include: "Why could the EU's cultural diversity be an asset in new international relations?", Salzburg Global Seminar, April 2008, and "Do we need an EU strategy towards Asia?" and he has made various presentations on EU-Asia strategic relations at think tanks, universities and business schools in Manchester, Swansea (UK), Bonn (Germany), Maastricht (Netherlands), Stockholm (Sweden), Brussels (Belgium) and Helsinki (Finland).

DETAILS

Date: 12 January 2010

Time: 4.00pm – 5.30pm

Venue: ASEF Conference Room, Asia-Europe Foundation,
31 Heng Mui Keng Terrace,
Singapore 119595 [[Map](#)]