



## PRESS RELEASE

### Public Lecture by Ambassador Pierre Sellal “The European Union in a Globalized World – Strategic Prospects”



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#### **Furthering European integration: a key element to secure a comprehensive global response to the crisis**



*Ambassador Pierre Sellal delivering his lecture at the Asia-Europe Foundation*

The protracted crisis surrounding the Euro has thrown a harsh light on the European Union as the body struggles to manage a predicament that is inextricably linked to the global economy. According to Ambassador Pierre Sellal, Secretary General of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs, the EU is however equipped to recover from the current crisis and to continue to act as a crucial player addressing global challenges. “It has put in place a comprehensive set of measures which will result in further European integration to a more a better Europe. The measures are based on the very core principles on which the European Union is founded: responsibility, solidarity, convergence and governance.”

Ambassador Pierre Sellal, holding the rare position of Ambassador of France, delivered a public lecture “The European Union in a Globalized World – Strategic Prospects” on Friday 16 March 2012 at the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). A key person in the French diplomacy, he also believed that more international coordination is needed in times of great changes worldwide and countries from the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) would have an important role to play. “It would be in both side’s interest to reflect how ASEM, in particular in the framework of the economic and financial pillar, could even be used more to promote growth and economic changes between Europe and Asia”, he said.

The public was able to engage with Ambassador Sellal directly during a question-and-answer session. Guests from diplomatic corps, business, media, educational and research institutions took part in this event. Questions and comments from the floor included queries on Europe's fiscal policy, Europe's measures towards further European integration and a perceived lack of interest by Europeans in European policy and politics.

Ambassador Sellal has been dealing with European and global affairs during his entire career, at the highest responsibilities. He was the Head of the European Cooperation Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, then Director of the Private Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs from May 1997 to May 2002. He was Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the European Union in Brussels from May 2002 to April 2009. Since 2009, Ambassador Sellal has been the Secretary-General (Permanent Secretary) of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE) of France.

This public talk was organised by ASEF in partnership with the Embassy of France in Singapore.

**Programme contact: Ms Linyan Xue, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)**

T. +65 6874 9701 | F. +65 6872 1207 | E-mail: [linyan.xue@asef.org](mailto:linyan.xue@asef.org)

**Media contact: Ms Kristine Lucero, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)**

T. +65 6874 9728 | E-mail: [kristine.lucero@asef.org](mailto:kristine.lucero@asef.org)