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When Civil Society of Asia and Europe talk about Security

The conference will bring together 60 of the most eminent **scholars, researchers, and policy-makers** from Asia and Europe in the field of regional security to discuss the prospects and challenges of **greater Asia-Europe co-operation on security**.

*“This multilateral conference on Security bringing together representatives of civil society and officials from the 25 ASEM member countries is the first of its kind! Due to globalisation, Asians and Europeans are no longer facing only traditional security threats, but also unconventional ones. This is a growing trend, that needs to be addressed notably through better **dialogue on security** between the two regions,”* according to the organisers, Bertrand Fort, Director for Intellectual Exchange of the Asia-Europe Foundation and Mr Wang Yi, Director, Western European Studies, China Institute of International Studies.

The expected participants have already emphasised on the “**importance and timeliness**” of the conference and its “**most substantive**” **programme**, which was developed by the organisers with the aim of fostering greater understanding between Asia and Europe on the profound socio-political changes which have taken place in both regions since 9/11.

The organisers will present the outcome of the conference to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Home Affairs of all 25 ASEM member countries. It is their aim to achieve greater co-operation and **enhance communication** on those pressing issues that influence decision making **on foreign policy and home affairs** to a great extent in both regions.

The Asia-Europe Foundation is co-organising this three-day conference with the **China Institute of International Studies** (CIIS) on “New Security Challenges for Asia and Europe” in Beijing, China, 21 to 23 April 2004, with the support of the **French Government** and **European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company** (EADS).

*CIIS is the main think-tank of China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **ASEF-IE**’s mandate is to contribute to policy debate and strategic thinking on themes of current and future inter-regional importance between Asia and Europe.*

For further information about the programme, please visit www.asef.org or contact

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If you are interested in attending and covering the programme as a reporting journalist, please contact: jessicayom@asef.org or Tel. (65) 6874 9726

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) seeks to promote better mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. ASEF was established by 10 Asian nations, the 15 member states of the European Union and the European Commission on 15 February 1997. To promote exchanges in the three areas – intellectual, cultural and people-to-people – ASEF organises conventions, symposia, seminars, public lectures, youth camps, art competitions, performances, exhibitions, and others. To date, ASEF has completed over 300 projects involving more than 10,000 participants. In particular, Intellectual Exchange aims to contribute to policy debate and strategic thinking on themes of current and future inter-regional importance between Asia and Europe.

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China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) is the main think-tank of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs founded in 1956. It conducts research and analysis on a wide range of foreign policy issues, focused primarily on medium-and long-term policy issues of strategic importance, particularly international politics and world economy. The staff of CIIS consists of nearly 100 researchers and professionals, including senior diplomats, leading area-study specialists, experts in the major fields of foreign affairs, and young scholars with advanced degrees in International Relations or related disciplines.

www.ciis.org.cn

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental informal dialogue process that was launched in 1996 at a summit of 25 heads of states from Asia and Europe and the European Commission, with the objective to strengthen relations between Asia and Europe at the political, economic, cultural and social level. ASEM comprises, on the Asian side, Brunei, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam and the 15 European Union countries and the European Commission.

European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS) is the second largest worldwide aerospace and defence company in the world with a revenue of Euro 30.1 billion in the year 2003 and a workforce of more than 109,000. The EADS Group includes the aircraft manufacturer Airbus, the world's largest helicopter supplier Eurocopter, and the joint venture MBDA, the second largest missile producer in the global market. EADS is the major partner in the Eurofighter consortium and also develops the A400M military transport aircraft, and is the largest industrial partner for the European satellite navigation system Galileo. EADS has more than 70 facilities in France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain and the U.S., and is active worldwide including Russia and Asia.

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