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p. 1/2

# Recent Developments in the European Union and Latvia

**SINGAPORE – Public Lecture by H.E. Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Latvia**

“Latvia trying to diversify its relations with global economies is positively looking towards strengthening its ties with the ASEAN countries through Latvian exports and investments” remarked H.E. Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Latvia.

Mr Rinkēvičs shared his views during the public lecture “Recent Developments in the European Union and Latvia” on Wednesday, 2 May 2012 at the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).

Speaking to the guests from the diplomatic corps, think tanks, educational and research institution, Mr Rinkēvičs highlighted: “The potential of cooperation between European Union and ASEAN in the field of economy is unlimited. What we need for achieving that is stability and predictability in our economic relations and the removal of impediments which obstruct these economic relations to become even stronger”.

H.E. Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs was the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Defence of Latvia between 1998 and 2008. During his tenure, he also worked as the Deputy Head of the Latvian delegation for accession negotiations with the NATO from 2002 until 2003; and from 2005 until 2007, he was the Office Manager of the Office for organising the NATO Summit of Heads of State and Government. From 2008 until October 2011, he was the Head of Chancery at the Chancery of the President of Latvia. He became the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia in October 2011.

This public talk was organised by ASEF with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore. # # #

## ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

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### Asia-Europe Foundation

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), which currently comprises of 46 member states plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat ([www.aseminfoboard.org](http://www.aseminfoboard.org)) ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since engaged over 17,000 direct participants through more than 550 projects in the realms of economy and society, environment, education, public health, arts and culture, human rights and governance, and inter-communal dialogue. [www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)

In 2012, ASEF is commemorating its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and invites everyone to take part in celebrating **Connected Histories, Shared Future**.

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