

EU-SINGAPORE DIALOGUE 2021: STRENGTHENING  
MULTILATERALISM: OPPORTUNITIES FOR EU-  
SINGAPORE COOPERATION

## Panel 1: “Understanding Multilateralism and Opportunities for EU, Singapore and ASEAN collaboration”

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I would like to make three points:

- Multilateralism remains crucial to helping solve complex problems in today's world.
- Key is to persuade big powers – and medium-sized powers and non-state actors – to subscribe to multilateralism; respect its rules and regulations.
- Three “prerequisites” to achieve this task.



# ASEAN



BRUNEI



MYANMAR



CAMBODIA



PHILIPPINES



INDONESIA



SINGAPORE



LAOS



THAILAND



MALAYSIA



VIETNAM

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# Bringing on board the major & medium powers

- How to get nations to recognise & embrace notion that respecting international rules & regulations is meant for good of all - including themselves - even if it entails making short-term sacrifices, & benefits will only be seen much later?

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# Three Prerequisites to Peace

- i. Mindset Change.
- ii. Build Trust and Confidence. Key is Forgiveness over Revenge.
- iii. Utilise multiple multilateral fora.

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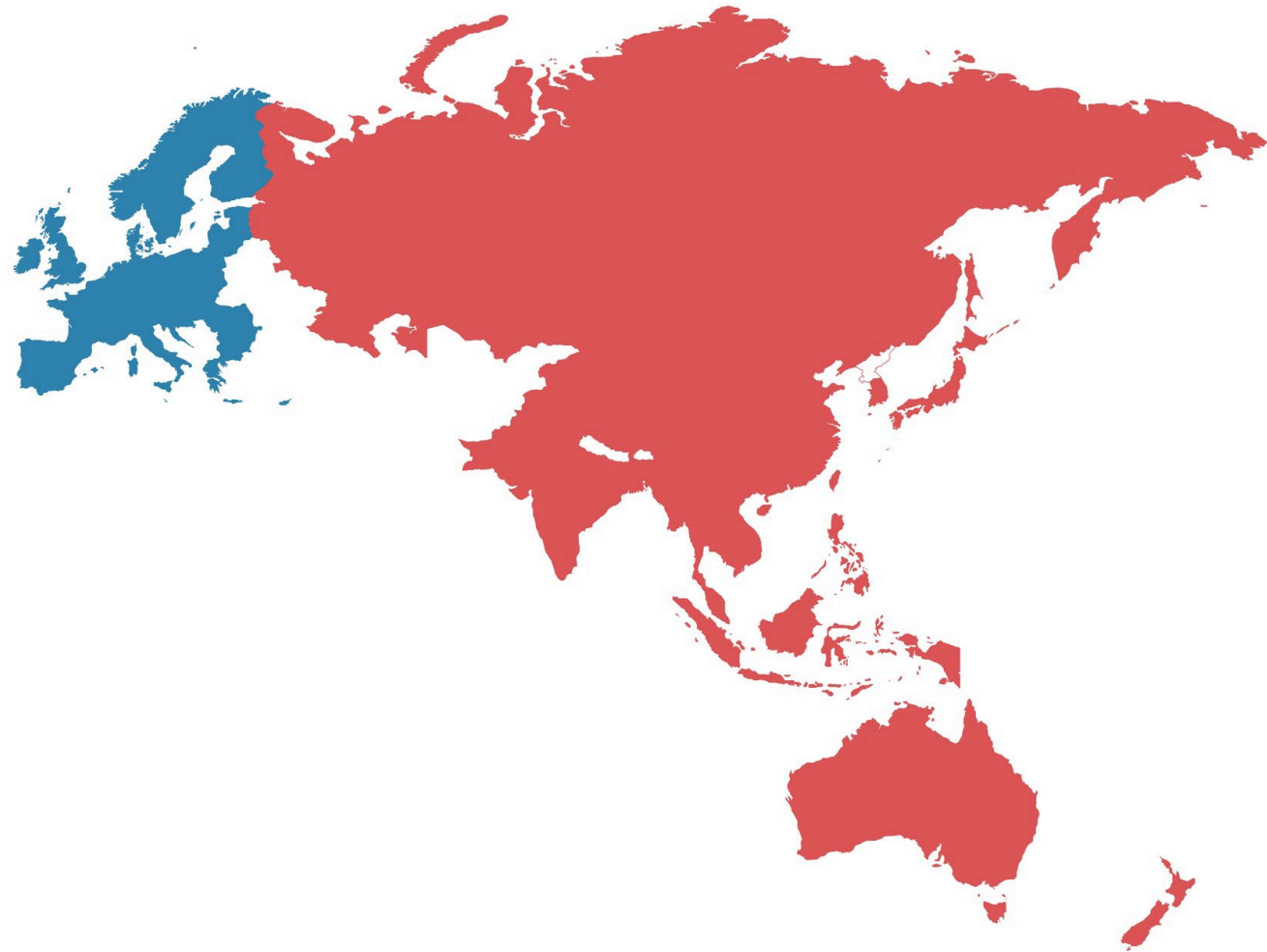
# ASEM

## Asia:

Australia  
Bangladesh  
Brunei Darussalam  
Cambodia  
China  
India  
Indonesia  
Japan  
Kazakhstan  
Korea  
Lao PDR  
Malaysia  
Myanmar  
New Zealand  
Pakistan  
Philippines  
Russian Federation  
Singapore  
Thailand  
Viet Nam  
ASEAN Secretariat

## Europe:

Austria  
Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
United Kingdom  
European Union



# Conclusion



- Can't ignore realities of Realist approach; nor accept Liberal Order unreservedly.
- Embrace best of both – magnanimity from rich & powerful, mindset change from ALL in building trust & confidence, emphasis on forgiveness over revenge & retribution.
- Blend this with a dose of pragmatism – takes time to see results; such efforts have been done before with positive outcomes.

Image Source: Christopher Witmer