



H.E. Mr Xavier Bettel
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
Luxembourg

9 January 2026

Subject: Condolence Message on the Passing of Mr Robert Goebbels

Your Excellency,

With profound sadness at the passing of Mr Robert Goebbels, we extend our heartfelt condolences.

Mr Goebbels served as Luxembourg Governor to the Board of Governors of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) from March 2016 and was a highly valued member of ASEF's governing bodies. He became a member of the Finance & Audit Committee (FAC) in June 2019 and later joined the Executive Committee (ExCo) in December 2022. Throughout his tenure, Mr Goebbels was a dedicated and active contributor to ASEF's governance, offering thoughtful insights and demonstrating a strong commitment to the mission and values of the Foundation.

Mr Robert Goebbels was a distinguished diplomat deeply committed to European integration and international cooperation. As Luxembourg's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, he was one of the signatories of the Schengen Agreement in 1985, an enduring symbol of openness and unity in Europe. He later served for 15 years as a Member of the European Parliament, where he actively supported inter-regional dialogue and contributed to strengthening relations between Europe and Asia, including through EU-ASEAN parliamentary engagement.

Over the years, ASEF had the privilege of working closely with Mr Goebbels. His long-standing engagement, professionalism, and constructive approach were deeply appreciated by the Foundation and its stakeholders, and he will be remembered with great respect and gratitude. On behalf of all the staff at the Asia-Europe Foundation, we wish to add that his presence and contributions will be greatly missed.

Please accept our sincere sympathies during this difficult time. Our thoughts are with his family, colleagues and all those who had the honour of knowing and working with Mr Goebbels.

Sincerely,

Amb Beata STOCZYŃSKA
Executive Director

Mr ZHANG Lei
Deputy Executive Director

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