

A delegation from the EU-ABC met with ASEAN Economic Ministers and European Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom on March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Chiang Mai, Thailand. During the meeting the EU-ABC presented the AEM with their latest position paper of recommendations designed to help advance the ASEAN Economic Community in 2016.

The recommendations, all expected to be achieved in the next 12-18 months covered a wide range of different areas including

- Trade facilitation and the movement of goods
- Good regulatory practice
- Easing of customs procedures
- Removal of investment constraints
- Liberalisation of financial services
- Private sector consultation

The EU-ABC delegation consisted of representatives from the European Chambers in Malaysia, Laos, Philippines, Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam together with industry representatives from Bosch, DHL, Pernod Ricard, PMI, Prudential, STMicroelectronics and SWIFT. There was good interaction between all the parties attending.

Following the presentation of the position paper, Chairman of the EU-ABC François Guibert addressed the meeting and outlined the close connection the EU has with ASEAN, being its largest source of FDI and second largest trading partner. The full paper can be found at <http://eu-asean.eu/advocacy/position-papers/>

In a subsequent meeting the delegation met with EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom, holding full discussions on the status of Free Trade Agreements with ASEAN member states and the prospects for further FTAs as well as the continuing development and enhancement of trade relations with South East Asia and a number of market access and trade issues being faced by members across the region.