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## Summary of Conclusions

### **5th Meeting of the ASEAN-EEC Joint Cooperation Committee Cha-Am, Thailand, 17–18 December 1984**

#### 1. Overview on ASEAN-EC Relations

The Committee agreed that the overall relations between the Community and ASEAN were progressing satisfactorily and should serve as a basis for further achievements in the future.

#### 2. Follow-up of the 5th ASEAN-EC Ministerial Meeting in Dublin

The Committee agreed that the 5th ASEAN-EC Ministerial Meeting in Dublin was a success and that follow-up actions should be undertaken to implement the decisions of and directions set by that Meeting.

##### *i) Review of the Implementation of the Cooperation Agreement*

The Committee agreed to follow up the decision of the Community and ASEAN Ministers at the 5th AEMM regarding the review of the Cooperation Agreement to define new areas and directions including an examination on how to improve the operation of the Agreement by preparing jointly a concise informal information paper for the Meeting of the relevant ASEAN and EC Ministers on economic matters.

##### *ii) Fields and Directions for Future Cooperation*

The Committee agreed that while existing cooperation in the commercial, economic and development fields should continue and be enhanced, other areas and future directions namely, training, science and technology and the encouragement of European investment in ASEAN countries as agreed to at the Dublin Meeting would be explored in order to bring about concrete implementation in these areas.

##### *iii) Preparation for ASEAN-EC Ministerial Meeting on Economic Matters*

ASEAN's offer to host the Meeting of the relevant Community and ASEAN Ministers on economic matters in the ASEAN region was noted with appreciation. The Committee expressed the hope that the Meeting would take place by October 1985.

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### 3. Progress Report on the Implementation of the Cooperation Agreement

The Committee adopted the Progress Report on the Work of the JCC between October 1983 and October 1984, noting with satisfaction that all activities agreed in 1983 would be completed by the end of 1984 or soon afterwards. The Progress Report appears as *Annex I*.

### 4. Commercial Cooperation

#### i) *Specific Trade Issues and Access to Market*

The Committee expressed the wish to further develop and facilitate trade between the two regions in particular in maintaining as free access as possible to their respective markets.

ASEAN informed the EC that the "EC Memorandum on Trade Matters-Access to Market" had just been received by ASEAN and that appropriate action on it would be considered.

#### ii) *Commodities*

The Committee agreed to actively follow through the commitment made by the ASEAN-EC Foreign Ministers at the 5th AEMM as expressed in the relevant parts of the Joint Declaration.

The EC took note of ASEAN's request for collaboration in research and development on tin consumption which, in ASEAN's view, would be beneficial for both consuming and producing countries.

The Committee also agreed that ASEAN and the EC would continue to actively participate in the renegotiation of the International Natural Rubber Agreement.

The Committee noted that no decision had been made by the EC on the imposition of taxes on vegetable oils and oil seeds. ASEAN expressed the hope that any decision undertaken on this matter would not adversely affect ASEAN interests.

#### iii) *Trade Promotion*

The Committee noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in this field in 1984 and in particular that the Financial Agreement in which 1 million ECU was committed for the implementation of projects under the training package, had been signed by ASEAN and the EC. The Committee agreed that the Trade Promotion Meeting will be held in the second quarter of 1985.

#### iv) *Generalized System of Preference (GSP)*

ASEAN expressed its appreciation to the EC for the ceiling improvements in a number of ASEAN exports, especially textiles, to the Community.

The Committee noted that the EC will seek to improve further its GSP scheme, which is already among the most comprehensive of those granted by developed countries.

ASEAN requested that the EC, in its major review of the EC GSP scheme in 1985, bear in mind the decision reached at the 5th AEMM on its commitment to all the basic principles of the GSP.

### 5. Economic Cooperation

#### i) *European Investment in ASEAN*

The Committee discussed the decision agreed at the 5th AEMM to study seriously the appropriate means of extending cooperation in the financial sector including the possibilities of

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closer regional banking and business contacts and of drawing upon the experience of the European Investment Bank.

In this connection, the Committee agreed that relevant inputs from ASEAN are needed for the study.

ii) *Industrial Sectoral Conference*

The Committee noted that preparations for the ASEAN-EC Sectoral Conference which will be held in Manila in 1985 is well underway and that the food processing industry is the focus of the Conference.

iii) *ASEAN-EEC Business Council (AEEC)*

The Committee noted with satisfaction the inauguration of the ASEAN-EEC Business Council in Jakarta on 2–3 December 1983.

The Committee noted that ASEAN-EEC Business Council had been informed that the 5th AEMM had urged that priority should be given to the transfer of technology in their collaboration and investment programmes. The Committee also noted that the ASEAN-EEC Business Council will put forward proposals which will be carefully examined.

iv) *Mining*

The Committee noted that:

1) the ASEAN-EC Minerals Legislations Conference could be held in Bangkok on 8–9 May 1985;

2) the Meeting between ASEAN-EC Experts on Stability Problems in Open Mines in Soft Ground will be held in Kuala Lumpur on 7–8 February 1985; and

3) Further information is needed on the workshops on three industrial minerals namely; marble, limestone and bentonite.

6. Development Cooperation

i) *EC Development Policy*

The Committee took note of the EC overall policy on development.

The Committee also discussed certain procedural points relating to the preparation and implementation of ASEAN regional projects. It was agreed that this question would be reviewed in more detail during the coming year.

ii) *Specific ASEAN Regional Projects*

The Committee expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved so far in the implementation of on-going development cooperation projects in particular the recent approval of a 7.5 million ECU grant for the Timber Technology Centre and noted that a number of projects were in the final stage of preparation.

iii) *Cooperation in the field of Science, Technology and Energy*

The Committee noted that the 5th AEMM had attached great importance to this area of cooperation and is of the view that ASEAN-EC Cooperation in Science, Technology and Energy

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represents a promising area of future ASEAN-EC Cooperation. The Committee adopted the report of the Working Group on Science and Technology which appears as *Annex II*.

## 7. Training

The Committee noted that cooperation in this area had been given a new momentum at the Dublin Meeting. The Committee further noted ASEAN's presentation on training and the project proposals put forward by ASEAN. It was agreed that the EC will inform ASEAN of its response through the appropriate channel. The Committee expressed the hope that in view of the importance attached by 5th AEMM, budget constraints should not unduly become the main obstacle to the implementation of projects on training.

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The Meeting took place in the usual friendly atmosphere which characterizes EC-ASEAN relations. ASEAN accepted the EC's invitation for the next JCC meeting to be held in Europe in 1985.

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