

"FICHE CONTRADICTOIRE"
Evaluation of the Commission's support to ASEAN

Recommendations:	Responses of Commission Services:	Follow-up (one year later):
Improvement of cooperation		
<p>1</p> <p>The EC should expand its view of ASEAN-level policy dialogues and technical assistance / capacity building to encompass a broader range and a more heterodox group of subjects. Vol. 1, page 30</p>	<p>Partially agreed. From a cooperation perspective, this will be partly addressed by the READI project which in a flexible answer may respond to a variety of ASEAN needs, e.g. in areas such as environment, climate change, education, energy, etc...</p> <p>However, the EC is of the opinion that it is important to focus the support provided to ASEAN on strategic priorities for fostering wider integration.</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>The EC should redouble efforts already underway to improve the coordination of the pillars of support – bilateral projects and technical assistance, country-based ASEAN projects, and support to the ASEC, to ensure that synergies are achieved. Vol. 1, page 30</p>	<p>Partially agreed</p> <p>1. From the reporting point of view an ASEAN- wide EC management report is now regularly done, incorporating inputs from other EU Delegations in the region.</p> <p>2. Operational meetings and information exchange with colleagues from other ASEAN EU Delegations are regular.</p> <p>3. The appraisal process of new projects includes consultation with concerned EU Delegations and implementing projects are instructed to consult with concerned EU Delegation in country when implementing activities in country.</p> <p>4. The identification and appraisal of relevant bilateral projects also consider systematically potential complementarities and synergies with relevant regional actions. This information is reflected in project documents and is being monitored during implementation.</p>	
<p>3</p> <p>The EC should use its privileged position as a trusted supranational partner of ASEAN and its access to MS decision makers to advocate for the promised increase in human resources at ASEC. Vol. 1, page 31</p>	<p>We agree that the message concerning staff resources should be regularly conveyed at the highest level.</p> <p>The issue of lack of resources is regularly raised in ASEAN-EU meetings, was raised during the last JCC meeting in Pnomh Penh and is raised by the Delegation in practically all its contacts with, for instance, ASEAN's Permanent Representatives.</p> <p>ASEAN in 2009, thanks to a major increase of budget decided by its Foreign Ministers, has undertaken a major</p>	

	<p>restructuring, increasing its capacity considerably. The increase of resources is expected to continue.</p> <p>It should be noted that while increased resources in ASEC would be essential to enable it to function effectively, wider institutional reforms may be required to foster effective integration.</p>	
Thematic ecommendations		
<p>4</p> <p>The EC should position its bilateral projects and technical assistance (TA) in the poor ASEAN MSs to identify barriers to enhanced competitiveness and to promote the successful transition of vulnerable sectors to the new integrated environment. At ASEC level, the EC could advocate for more generous funding of the IAI programme, and consider offering matching grants or co-financing for projects which promise to close gaps. Vol. 1, page 31</p>	<p>Partially agreed</p> <p>In regional cooperation projects, routinely specifically additional support is provided, reflecting a perception of more need for capacity building support in certain countries. While being in agreement with objective of closing (reducing) the income gap, the EC is not fully convinced that present programme is sufficiently developed to warrant matching grants.</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>The main instrument of improving broad EU visibility must be EC Delegations, which should redouble their efforts to reach out to populations at large in their respective countries. The EC should build on the fact that policy elites and opinion leaders clearly have a positive view of the EU across a broad front. Vol. 1, page 31</p>	<p>Agreed. Historically, visibility efforts have mainly be done in the context of specific projects.</p> <p>With the appointment of an ASEAN Special Advisor based in Jakarta, the broader visibility agenda has received more attention and more clear focal point established. The EU Delegation in Jakarta makes regularly efforts to reach a wider public on EU-ASEAN relations (including an explanation of the various EC programmes). These actions will be continued and may be placed in a wider framework of a visibility strategy.</p>	