



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Outcomes of Bilateral Meetings between His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn,  
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and European Union Leaders in  
Brussels**

On the margin of the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit in Brussels from 12-14 December 2022, His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation had several bilateral meetings with Her Excellency Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships, His Excellency Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative of the European Union (EU) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, and Her Excellency Tanja Fajon, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia.

**I- Meeting with Her Excellency Jutta Urpilainen**

On bilateral cooperation, Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn spoke highly of the Cambodia-EU's robust partnership and EU's significant contribution to the socio-economic development in Cambodia. Deputy Prime Minister also informed the EU side of the stable progress on democracy and election in Cambodia, highlighting Cambodia's firm determination to guarantee and protect the rule of law. In response, H.E. Jutta Urpilainen informed the will of the EU to strengthen bilateral relation and supports Cambodia's endeavour for the graduation from LDCs in 2027 so as to help build resilient and sustainable development. On the side note, H.E. Urpilainen also made known that EU has just approved the budget of 29 million Euro to further support the education sector in Cambodia.



Within the ASEAN-EU framework, H.E. DPM stressed the importance of H.E. Charles Michel, President of the European Council, attending the ASEAN Summits and Related Summits in November 2022 in Phnom Penh, which reflected the strong commitment of the ASEAN-EU partnership. H.E. Urpilainen spoke highly of Cambodia's role as Chair of the ASEAN in navigating the bloc and its Dialogue Partners through this challenging year, and reiterated EU's commitment to strengthen ASEAN-EU strategic partnership by promoting the investment of 10 billion Euro in ASEAN from 2021 to 2027 through the EU's Global Gateway, focusing on digital transformation, investment, quality infrastructure, and sustainable connectivity.

During the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokonn and H.E. Urpilainen also exchanged views on many topics touching on regional and international issues of common concerns.

## **II- Meeting with His Excellency Josep Borrell Fontelles**

H.E. Borrell congratulated Cambodia on the successful chairmanship of ASEAN and thanked Cambodia for joining hands with the international community to support and co-sponsor the UN resolutions on Ukraine as well as Cambodia's contribution to dispatch its experts to train Ukrainian deminers. During the Meeting, Deputy Prime Minister informed the EU side that although Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship sits at a time when the world is experiencing many challenges and complexities, ASEAN can still achieve many important accomplishments, including the issuance of 130 outcome documents. On top of that, ASEAN also agreed in principle to accept the Timor-Leste as the 11<sup>th</sup> member of ASEAN. With regard to the crisis in Myanmar, ASEAN Leaders put forward a 15-point decision to accelerate the implementation of the 5PC with an aim to bring Myanmar back to normalcy.

H.E. Borrell informed that the EU is indeed interested in boosting and strengthening bilateral relations between Cambodia-EU to a new height with the support of the EU's Global Gateway initiative. H.E. Borrell congratulated Cambodia on the preparation for graduation from LDCs which will contribute to the expansion of Cambodia-EU trade relations. In response, H.E. DPM expressed his pleasure on the subsequent progress



of Cambodian-EU bilateral cooperation and underlined Cambodia's significant improvement in democracy. The recent communal election that took place in early June this year was widely acknowledged as free and fair with 80% turnout rate and the contest by 17 political parties. H.E. DPM also invited the EU to send observers to monitor the election process in Cambodia in 2023.

### **III- Meeting with Her Excellency Tanja Fajon**

Both sides agreed to further boost Cambodia-Slovenia bilateral relations, and to achieve this goal, the two countries agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of a Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs at Director-General level. Both sides hope that the meeting between both parties can be held in March 2023 in preparation for the visit of Samdech Techo Prime Minister to Slovenia at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Slovenia.

H.E. DPM expressed Cambodia's attachment to the friendly relation and bilateral cooperation, and that Samdech Techo Prime Minister is pleased to visit Slovenia, during which some documents on bilateral cooperation will be signed.

Phnom Penh, 15 December 2022

