



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

Outcome of the 23rd ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM)

1 December 2020, via videoconference

On 1 December 2020, His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, attended the 23rd ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting via videoconference. The key outcomes of the Meeting are as follows:

The Meeting noted the progress of cooperation through the implementation of the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action (2018-2022). The Meeting also exchanged views on how both regions can enhance collaboration to address immediate common concern such as COVID-19 outbreaks and other public health emergencies, post-pandemic economic recovery and further strengthen the existing partnership.

ASEAN Members welcomed the EU's continued support for ASEAN Centrality and Community building and EU's announcement of EUR 20 million to support the "South East Asia Health Pandemic Response and Preparedness Programme" to help the region better prepare for future public health emergencies. They also recognized the significance of the EU's contribution of up to EUR 500 million to support COVAX facility to accelerate and scale-up the development and manufacturing of a global supply of vaccines for all.

The Meeting committed to create a practical framework for an ASEAN-EU FTA and looked forward to its early realization. The Meeting adopted the ASEAN-EU Joint Ministerial Statement on Connectivity, and appreciated efforts to explore synergies between the "Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025" and "Connecting Europe and Asia: The EU Strategy". The Meeting also concurred to work towards the early conclusion of the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (CATA).



During this Meeting, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn commended the EU's active role in supporting the global endeavor to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and to mitigate its socio-economic consequences. He also emphasized the importance of the EU's support to ASEAN's current initiatives to strengthen preparedness for future public health emergencies.

On economic front, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister hailed efforts to realize ASEAN-EU FTA which he believed is key to unlock the business and investment potentials that are important building blocks for stronger ASEAN-EU relationship. He welcomed the elevation of the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Partnership to a Strategic Partnership which was confirmed during the Meeting, with the belief that this new milestone will further enhance the existing friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Phnom Penh, 01 December 2020

