

Statement by EAM at the end of ASEM FMM 10

June 07, 2011

ASEM Foreign Ministers have concluded two days of intense discussions at their 10th meeting in Godollo, Budapest on June 6-7, 2011. We had useful discussions on how Europe and Asia could utilize the bridge provided by ASEM to emphasise their common effort to meet global challenges. We exchanged views on non-traditional security threats and areas of primary concern, such as, terrorism, maritime security and piracy, food and energy security, climate change etc. We spoke about ensuring the sustainability of recovery from the economic and financial crisis and also shared our assessments on regional developments.

2. Asian emerging economies have experienced lesser difficulties during the financial crisis and even since then, because of their policy responses and the resilience of their economies. There is, however, need for stronger economic cooperation amongst Asian and European countries. Asia is following the Euro-related developments with interest.

3. There is also the question of making the global framework for economic governance more effective. The participation of emerging market economies as equal partners alongside developed countries remains critical to this. It is here that ASEM as a forum for dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe remains fundamentally relevant and can add substantive value.

4. India believes that ASEM provides unique opportunities, which we must take, to bring about greater focus on areas of relevance for developing countries and emerging markets.

5. We also value ASEM as a forum to exchange views on regional and international issues, such as the situation in Afghanistan where the international community would like to see a political process which is Afghan-led, inclusive, transparent and adheres to the 'red lines' which were decided on at the London and Kabul Conferences.

6. ASEM Foreign Ministers had useful discussions on non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, piracy, maritime security etc., which pose serious challenges to peace and security globally. India believes that different multilateral processes dealing with these issues should consolidate international efforts to address these threats. Both Asia and Europe have a common stake in ensuring that terrorists do not find safe havens and sanctuaries.

7. India agreed to the suggestion of the ASEM Members to host the 11th Meeting of the ASEM Foreign Ministers in 2013. India has increased its contribution to the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) from this year and would also be hosting the ASEF Board of Governors in 2012.

8. I would like to reiterate our appreciation for the excellent arrangements by the host country Hungary for ASEM FMM10, which I conveyed during my meeting with the Prime Minister of Hungary H.E. Dr. Viktor Orban earlier today.

Godollo (Hungary)

June 7, 2011

Source: Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India