



MINISTERIAL FORUM FOR COOPERATION IN THE INDO-PACIFIC (Paris, 22 February 2022)

FACTSHEET ON THE MAIN ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AREAS OF ENHANCED COOPERATION

1. SECURITY AND DEFENCE

- ❖ **Extension of the concept of coordinated maritime presence in the North-Western Indian Ocean.** The concept of coordinated maritime presences will ensure a significant European naval presence in the region by enhancing coordination between Member States' deployments and facilitating information sharing;
- ❖ Further development of the **Enhancing Security Cooperation in and with Asia (ESIWA) programme in the areas of counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, maritime security and crisis management.** ESIWA is an EU-funded capacity building project implemented by Expertise France and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ);
- ❖ **Planned extension of the EU-Programme CRIMARIO II (Critical Maritime Routes Indo-Pacific) project to the Pacific.** CRIMARIO II is a capacity building project in the Indian Ocean and South East Asia for maritime domain awareness;
- ❖ **Support for the EU Regional programme for Maritime Security in the Red Sea,** dedicated to enhancing maritime and port security and safety of navigation in the Southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region;

2. CONNECTIVITY AND DIGITAL

- ❖ **Promotion of the EU's Global Gateway strategy,** which embodies a project offer for sustainable and inclusive connectivity and includes five priority areas (digital, climate and energy, transport, health, education and research). It will aim at mobilising up to EUR 300 billion of investment over the period 2021-2027 under the Team Europe approach. Highlighting new opportunities that will help facilitate the deployment of connectivity and infrastructure projects (new European Investment Bank branches in Nairobi, Jakarta, and Suva);
- ❖ Support for the call for action and joint work launched by the **public development banks (PDBs) and Financing Institutions** from Europe and the Indo-Pacific in the context of their gathering in Paris on 21 January, to **promote** public and private investments to catalyse finance for sustainable infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific region;

- ❖ **Preparation of a Team Europe Initiative (TEI) to promote sustainable connectivity between the EU and ASEAN and within ASEAN** in the fields of transport, energy, digital technology and by strengthening mobility and people-to-people exchanges;
- ❖ Planned EU support of **EUR 5 million to the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)**, which will help improve the resilience of Small Island Developing States to climate change and disaster risks;
- ❖ **Outlook on the next steps following the conclusion of negotiations on the Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (CATA) between the EU and the ASEAN countries.** This is the first bi-regional air agreement that will enhance connectivity, economic and people-to-people exchanges between the EU and ASEAN;
- ❖ **Support for the launching of negotiations for the EU's digital partnerships with South Korea, Japan and Singapore.** These partnerships will include focus on four main themes: secure and sustainable digital infrastructure, skills development, digital transformation of businesses, and digitisation of public services;
- ❖ **Launch of the Asia-Pacific branch of the Digital4Development Hub**, which is a platform that brings together European and regional governments, the European Investment Bank, private sector and civil society. This branch aims to provide a "one-stop shop" for European policies on digital development;
- ❖ **Joint Declaration between the EU and some Indo-Pacific States on privacy and the protection of personal data.** This text aims to affirm a common ambition to promote high standards of data protection in the Indo-Pacific region, in order to accompany the current digital transformation and to promote a people-centred approach;
- ❖ Preliminary considerations by the EU to explore a feasibility study on the construction of a new submarine cable system securely connecting the Indo-Pacific region, from Africa to Asia;
- ❖ **Highlighting the Erasmus+ programme and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in the Indo-Pacific under Horizon Europe**, which are the European reference programmes to promote people-to-people exchange and cooperation on knowledge and skills;

3. GLOBAL CHALLENGES

- ❖ **Envisaged top-up of EUR 6 million to the European contribution to the KIWA initiative for climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation in the Pacific**, created at the initiative of France and the European Union and bringing together our partners in the Indo-Pacific (Australia and New Zealand);
- ❖ **Support for the EU-ASEAN Green TEI.** It reflects Europe's desire to strengthen its partnership with the region in areas such as climate action, environmental protection and biodiversity, transition to clean energy, disaster resilience, food systems, and prevention of illegal logging. As part of this initiative, the **ASEAN Catalytic Green**

Finance Facility (ACGF) provides blended investment funds and technical assistance for green infrastructure projects in the Indo-Pacific region;

- ❖ **Support for the Green Blue Alliance for the Pacific and Timor-Leste TEI.** Covering 18 Pacific countries and territories, this TEI aims to strengthen our partners' climate ambition and promote sustainable management of natural capital;
- ❖ **Announcement of the EU membership to the North Pacific Fisheries Commission** to contribute to the sustainable management of fish stocks under the competence of the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and to strengthen our efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- ❖ **EU support for the development of a network for the fight against IUU fishing** through a strengthening of the ASEAN Members' ability to exchange relevant information to fight against illegal fishing ("ASEAN IUU Network");
- ❖ Support for the upcoming activities of **bilateral TEIs in Indopacific countries, including Eastern Africa and Indian Ocean states**, to tackle challenges in the areas of green transition and human development;
- ❖ **Promotion of the PREZODE initiative.** This international initiative brings together research institutes and governments from both regions to implement the "One Health" approach and improve prevention, early detection and resilience to zoonotic diseases.
- ❖ **Promote R&I collaboration under Horizon Europe** to strengthen networks and scientific excellence with the Indo-Pacific Region.