

EU - SINGAPORE DIALOGUE



Addressing Security Challenges in a Changing World

A seminar co-organised by the EUISS and the RSIS

Singapore, 30 January 2019



Open letter

The EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) and the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) are pleased to share the outcomes of the first EU - Singapore Think Tank Dialogue on Security, held at the Fullerton Hotel, Singapore, on 30 January 2019.

The event was organised at the initiative of H.E. Barbara Plinkert, Ambassador of the European Union to Singapore, as part of a broader effort to engage with the expert community to exchange views and explore opportunities for cooperation between the EU and Singapore bilaterally, as well as in the context of EU - ASEAN relations.

With the signature of the Free Trade Agreement, Investment Protection Agreement, Partnership and Cooperation Agreement in October 2018, the EU and Singapore vow to step up their relationship beyond trade and economic connections and forge closer political and security ties. This endeavour reflects the shared commitment to free, fair and rules-based order and the necessity to join forces in light of today's interconnected and increasingly volatile global environment.

In order to advance the reflection process and enhance cooperation in the security domain, the seminar addressed three topical issue areas: cyber security, counter-terrorism and maritime security.

The input was provided by experts and policy practitioners from the EU and Singapore. The event was attended by 180 registered participants from diplomatic missions, research institutions, universities and the private sector.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS

Below takeaways sum up some of the key points of interest from the presentations and suggest potential areas of cooperation that could be taken into consideration by governmental agencies in charge of the respective agendas. Joint research programmes and projects on common security challenges could also be envisaged to support policy-makers.

Cyber Security

Cyber threats are becoming more widespread, more malicious and more difficult to track. The rapidly evolving technological landscape, including new trends such as the Internet of Things (IoT), outpace our ability to defend against those threats. With political, strategic and commercial interests deeply intertwined, any effective policy needs to be implemented through concerted effort among all actors within and between countries.

Possible areas of cooperation:

- > Cyber resilience (good practice sharing, research cooperation)
 - > Protection of critical infrastructure (for example energy, financial networks, transportation or health systems)
 - > Management and protection of undersea cables
 - > Awareness-raising (private sector and civil society/ general public)
- > Cyber governance
 - > Cooperation for the application of international law in cyberspace – within the UN framework and other relevant multilateral settings

- > Regional cooperation on cyber security (EU-ASEAN level; capacity building, best practice sharing; cooperation in the context of the Singapore-ASEAN Centre of Excellence)
 - > Data protection harmonisation; GDPR

Counter-terrorism

Both Europe and Southeast Asia have experienced the devastating effects of terrorism. Far from diminishing, the phenomenon has evolved, with decentralised terrorist networks gaining new recruits and influence through the use social media. Transparency and information sharing between countries is essential to address this constantly moving target.

Possible areas of cooperation:

- > Prevention of radicalisation and promotion of de-radicalisation (good practice sharing, research cooperation)
 - > Return of foreign fighters (family support, judicial cooperation)
 - > Radicalisation awareness network (early identification of social, economic, ideological and other drivers)
- > Crime-terrorism nexus (good practice sharing, research cooperation)
 - > Comparative study between Europe and Southeast Asia
- > Regional counter-terrorism cooperation (EU - ASEAN level practical cooperation; capacity-building, good practice sharing, high level dialogue)
 - > Common information-sharing system
 - > Judicial cooperation
 - > Agreement on sharing classified information between the EU and Singapore

Maritime Security

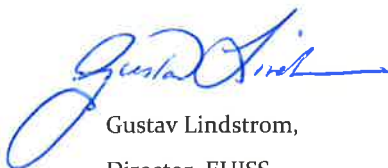
Maritime security offers a wide range of opportunities for cooperation. As the physical connector between Asia and Europe, carrying most of its interregional trade, the maritime realm remains home to transnational crime and sensitive to disruptions. Both the EU and Singapore are vitally dependent on stable, safe and open seas and have rich experience they could share for mutual benefit.

Possible areas of cooperation:

- > Enhancing Maritime Domain/ Situational Awareness (good practice sharing, capacity building)
 - > Information-sharing and fusion
 - > Incident management systems
- > Law enforcement (good practice sharing)
 - > Drug, weapons and people trafficking; IUU fishing
- > Regional maritime security cooperation (EU - ASEAN level; capacity building, good practice sharing, high-level dialogue, CBMs)
 - > Port security and sustainability (economic, environmental)
 - > Marine scientific research (regional scientific data fusion)

The quality of discussions and the level of interest the event generated, revealed a potential for similar events to be held on a more regular basis.

On behalf of the co-organisers,



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Director, EUISS



Ong Keng Yong,
Executive Deputy Chairman, RSIS