



On 29th July 2022, Indonesia and the European Union (EU) held the sixth Joint Committee in Bali. On this occasion, the Ambassador Ngurah Swajaya, the Director-General for American and European Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and Mr. Gunnar Wiegand, the Managing Director for Asia and the Pacific at the European External Action Service of the EU, act as the co-chair of the Joint Committee were discussing the bilateral relations and cooperation as mandated by the Indonesia-European Union Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA). The topics that discussed at the meeting were varied, starting from COVID-19, geopolitical development, security issues, environmental issues, and even up to future cooperation. As a start, Indonesia and the EU exchanging views on their respective COVID-19 pandemic response policies to promote economic recovery and a more pandemic-resilient community, including the mutual recognition of their respective COVID-19 vaccine certificates since May 12th, 2022 and Indonesia's interest to improve the mobility entering the EU through Schengen visa.

On the next topic, both parties also discussed the recent geopolitical development in the regions and reaffirmed their commitment to the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. Through this occurrence, those parties also renewed their commitment to strengthening the spirit of multilateralism and adherence to international law. The determination is to seek solutions, and promote peace and stability. Both parties also expressed their shared view on the growing strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific region, and agree on the importance of building on the synergies between the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.

Related to the security issues topic which was previously discussed in the Sixth Security Policy Dialogue on November 10th, 2021 and the Sixth Political Dialogue on March 22nd, 2022, both parties agreed to pursue a partnership of mutual benefits in security cooperation, including maritime security, peacekeeping operations, cyber security, and counterterrorism. Indonesia also encouraged further exchanges of knowledge and consultations on security and defense cooperation through the EU programs Enhancing Security Cooperation in and with Asia (ESIWA) and Critical Maritime Routes in the Indian Ocean (CRIMARIO). In addition, the Joint Committee also took note that the next Human Rights Dialogue will be scheduled at a mutually agreed time with the main discussion topic about mutual concern on promoting and protecting human rights.

On the trade and investment topic, both parties confirmed their commitment to expedite work on the Indonesia-EU Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and looked forward to holding a round of negotiations soon. Furthermore, in the other Working Group, Development Cooperation, both parties agreed on the importance of promoting mutually beneficial development cooperation.

On the environmental and climate change issues topic, both parties confirmed their commitment to ensuring that domestic regulations respect to their World Trade Organization (WTO) obligations and are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both parties reaffirmed their commitment to the full implementation of the Forest Law Enforcement Government and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT VPA) to ensure sustainable and legal timber products, as well as underscored the importance of cooperation in decarbonizing the power sector. Both parties also will look forward to convening the Working Group on Environment and Climate Change and the High-Level Dialogue on Fisheries and Maritime Issues later in 2022.

Lastly, during the constructive discussions on the regional and multilateral cooperation, both parties exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan, Myanmar, and the Middle East, and reaffirmed their commitment to promoting peace and stability in those regions through existing regional and multilateral mechanisms. On ASEAN-EU relations, the EU reiterated its commitment to support Indonesia and ASEAN during the Indonesian ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023. Both parties also shared a commitment to a successful ASEAN – EU Commemorative Summit at the end of 2022.

Before closing up the meeting, the Joint Committee discussed possible future cooperation under the PCA and took note of the opportunities offered by the EU Global Gateway and a potential Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) to define cooperation for mutual benefit in various sectors, including in priorities of Indonesia's G20 Presidency in the health, energy transition, and digital transformation sectors. Both parties also agreed to intensify consultations on the issue of mutual recognition of halal certification based on the PCA. Both parties also discussed ways to increase their cooperation in the field of higher education and research. Furthermore, both Indonesia and the EU agreed to continue the discussion in the next Joint Committee meeting that will take place in Brussels in 2023.

For your reference, please check the official press release by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia regarding the 6th Indonesia-European Union Joint Committee in the link [here](#).

Italian Business Association in Indonesia (IBAI)

c/o Istituto Italiano di Cultura Jakarta

Jl. HOS Cokroaminoto No. 117 Menteng Jakarta 10310 INDONESIA

P: +6281 1979 4262 E: ibai@ibai.or.id