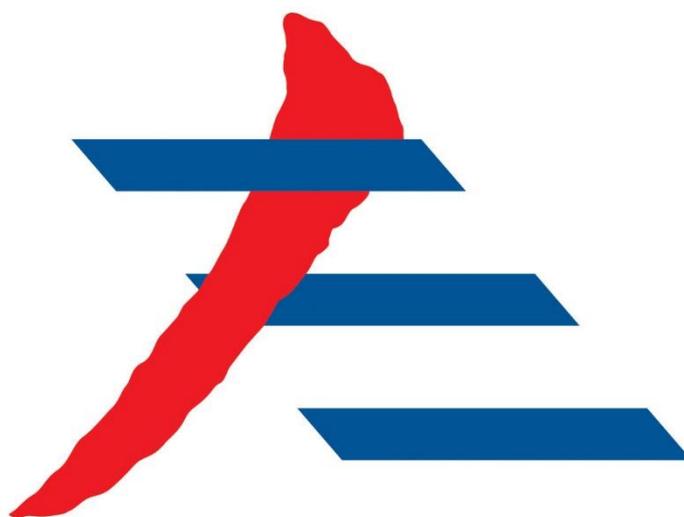


1 March – the ASEM Day



Asia-Europe Meeting

On 1 March, ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Day is already being celebrated for the second consecutive year. ASEM is the main multilateral platform for cooperation between Europe and Asia, comprising political and economic dialogue and addressing social, cultural and other issues of common interest in a spirit of equal partnership.

In 2016, at the ASEM Summit in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the heads of state and government agreed to designate 1 March as the ASEM Day, highlighting the importance and visibility of the partnership with a motto, “Asia meets Europe/Europe meets Asia”.

Latvia has been participating in this cooperating format since 2004, when the country joined the EU. Our principal interests in ASEM are related to transport, logistics and education. This was also evidenced by the meetings of ASEM Ministers for Education and Transport organised in Riga in 2015. This coming 25-26 April, Latvia will host an ASEM Technical and Vocational Education and Training Seminar. By means of an informal dialogue, the event will seek to promote the sharing of best practices on TVET policies in ASEM countries.

In the field of transport and logistics, Latvia will continue to actively contribute to ensuring connectivity between Europe and Asia through facilitating the flows of goods and services, trade and investments, as well as people-to-people contacts and business cooperation.

Given the high importance of contacts in education, culture, science and technologies, as well as people-to-people contacts, Latvia will continue supporting the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), which has a vital role in the ASEM dialogue. Jointly with 125 partner organisations, ASEF is carrying out projects – mainly conferences, seminars, training sessions and workshops – on topics related to culture, economy, education, governance, public health and sustainable development. Latvia joined ASEF in 2004. In 2014, Riga hosted an ASEF Board of Governors' Meeting. Latvia is represented in ASEF by Daiga Upeniece, Director of the Riga Bourse Art Museum.