Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ministers, ladies and gentlemen

We wish to thank our Danish host Minister Hedegaard as well as the ASEM governments for this opportunity to report to the Ministers and delegations on the activities of the Asia Europe Environment Forum and in particular, to present highlights from the discussion panel held here in Copenhagen on Monday.

We have witnessed how the common challenges in climate change and energy present an invaluable opportunity for both Asia and Europe to co-operate, not just between governments themselves but with the civil society and the private sector. Co-operation with all stakeholders will, no doubt, help us improve efforts in developing and deploying energy-efficient solutions.

To achieve the goals set out in this Ministers’ meeting, it is also important to note that consultation and co-operation should take place between all stakeholders. The industry, civil society and the research sector have played important roles in addressing problems related to climate change as well as the various other themes already discussed. We must all work together to ensure that there is synergy among all stakeholders in order to enrich the quality, outreach and impact of our work. Through this, we can achieve economies of scale in our actions to address the effects of global warming and its causes.

**Update on ENVforum**

**Phase 1**

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, ASEF is the only permanent institution created by the ASEM process. ASEF works to promote better understanding between the peoples of Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-
to-people exchange. ASEF’s role, in short, is to connect the peoples in Asia and Europe, and to act as an interface, bridging governments and other stakeholders. I would like to briefly update you on the activities of the ENVforum which aims to bring together all the different stakeholders to discuss and table their views on environment and sustainable development.

In the area of sustainable development and environment, ASEF created the Asia-Europe Environment Forum in 2003 in collaboration with a range of partners namely: the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies of Japan; the Hanns Seidel Foundation of Germany as well as the United Nations Environment Programme through its Regional Office in Asia-Pacific.

I am pleased to inform you that the Forum has definitely grown in strength. Indeed, in 2006, the Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia through its office in Bangkok came on board as a partner of the Forum. Their expertise and support has enabled the Forum to identify stronger future key areas of concern. We have, amongst our Steering Committee members, representatives from organisations such as DG Environment and the ADB.

The Forum completed its 1st phase in 2005 – during which the co-organisers have arranged 3 roundtables, 1 workshop session and 1 large conference- and is in its 2nd phase of development. It has brought together more than 600 people from Asia and Europe to jointly constitute the only multistakeholder platform of dialogue between our two regions to address important issues in the area of environment.

Our 1st roundtable in Bangkok in 2003 dealt with the theme of engaging civil society and the goals of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). That same year in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia we organised together with the United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies a high level dialogue on
Trade, biotechnology and sustainable development.

In Jeju Korea 2004, we organised together with our partners the second roundtable on the theme of climate change. We recognised the myriad of opportunities for all stakeholders in terms of potential synergy and collaboration. Building on the momentum, that same year, we organised a 3rd roundtable in Stockholm, Sweden, which explored technology partnerships for renewable energy as a potential solution to solving the question of energy security.

In 2005, the Jakarta Conference “1/3 of Our Planet: What Can Asia and Europe Do for Sustainable Development” was a three day event; involving 400 participants and a dozen workshops.

This event was the largest multi-stakeholder event organised on environment and sustainable development between Asia and Europe. The meeting gathered activists, researchers, policy analysts, multilateral and government officials, industry analysts and consultants, particularly those involved in renewable energy and financing.

The conference featured keynote addresses from Indonesian Minister for Environment Rachmat Witoelar and former UNEP Executive Director Klaus Toepfer.

Phase 2

The next roundtable, marking our 2nd phase, brought chemicals management to the forefront of dialogue between the two regions. It was held at the end of November last year in Brussels in the midst of the deliberation on the new EU legislation on chemicals: REACH. The meeting was particularly timely because the SAICM consultation in Asia will take place in May. The report for this roundtable is available.

The panel

As a direct contribution to this Ministerial, the ENVforum organised at the European Environment Agency on Monday a discussion panel on climate change policy. Entitled “Global Climate Change Policy after 2012 – ASEM’s
contribution”, this panel gathered a small number of high level experts from both regions.

Over 60 people from the academia, the industry, governments and civil society attended the panel.

We were honoured to welcome Ministers Hedegaard and Witoelar who delivered keynote speeches and who took questions from the attendees.

This panel built on ENVforum’s work on climate change strategies by encouraging a multi-stakeholder discussion in order to enrich and animate the debate on climate change strategies. It addressed a range of relevant issues including;

- The cost and benefits of a global climate policy;
- The roles of governments and societies in global climate policy;
- The experiences of stakeholders with the CDM.

The panel concluded with 5 points of highlights.

Participants to the panel wish to highlight the call:

- to facilitate the effective implementation of the Kyoto Protocol to meet the urgent requirement for tackling climate change;
- to call for universal participation in the post 2012 climate change regime, and global responsibility sharing in GHG emission reductions;
- to encourage prompt agreement on the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms (CDM, JI and emission trading) beyond 2012;
- to intensify Asia–Europe cooperation in technology transfer, capacity building and information sharing on best practices;
- to agree at the COP13 in Bali in December 2007 on the mandate and mechanism for negotiating a post 2012 climate change regime.

The proceedings and report of the meeting will be made available to you as soon as possible.
Conclusion

I hope that the enthusiasm and momentum from this Meeting will translate to concrete strategies particularly in light of the upcoming Bali Meeting.

Before I end, I wish to thank the Danish government for this opportunity and extend my congratulations for the organisation of this Meeting.

Thank you.