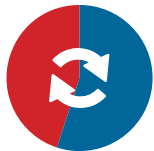
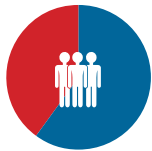


# ASEM factsheet

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is a unique, informal platform for political dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe.



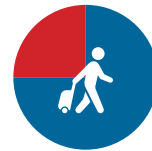
**55%**  
global trade



**60%**  
global population

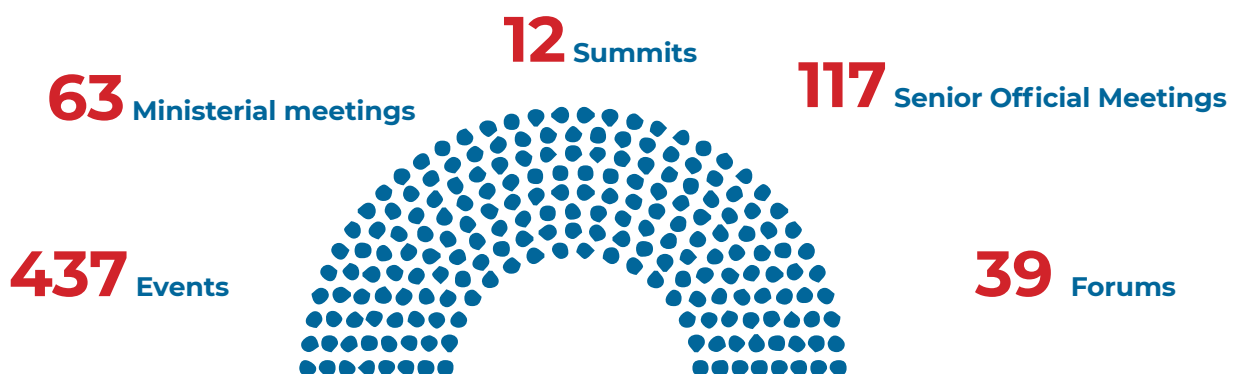


**65%**  
global GDP



**75%**  
global tourism

## A policy-making laboratory since 1996



## The 3 pillars of ASEM

### Political pillar

Important issues and challenges affecting both continents, including the fight against terrorism, common responses to international security threats, global environmental issues, management of migratory flows, human rights, welfare of women and children, etc.

### Economic and Financial pillar

Promoting growth and employment, enhancing cooperation on global financial issues, dialogue in priority industrial sectors, fostering connectivity between the two regions, etc.

### Social and Cultural pillar

A wide range of enhanced contacts and dialogue between the two regions on topics such as education, social protection and employment, and co-operation on the protection of cultural heritage.



**ASEM: CONNECTING ASIA AND EUROPE**



# The ASEM Sustainable Connectivity Portal

Connectivity is a top priority for ASEM. All ASEM partners agree that connectivity is about bringing countries, people and societies closer together, a means to foster deeper economic and people-to-people ties. It must be inclusive, mutually beneficial, and should work towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals ([www.consilium.europa.eu/media/31705/annex-i.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/31705/annex-i.pdf)).

With the aim of providing a scientific-based contribution to the policy discussions in the framework of ASEM on connectivity, the European Commission Joint Research Centre, together with experts coming from Europe and Asia, has developed the ASEM Sustainable Connectivity Portal.

The portal is an interactive online tool, which contains a repository of data to help explore how connectivity relates to sustainability between ASEM countries.

Structured according to two indices, one measuring cross-border connectivity via five pillars and the other measuring sustainability related to connectivity via three pillars. It gathers in one place a wealth of connectivity-related data coming from a range of international sources.

ASEM policymakers, as well as researchers, businesses and citizens can use the Portal to explore how their countries connect with other ASEM peers and investigate further how each country performs in terms of sustainable connectivity.

## ASEM Sustainable Connectivity

### CONNECTIVITY INDEX



#### Physical

It measures physical infrastructure in terms of transport, energy and information and communications technology (ICT), mainly between countries.



#### Economic/financial

It measures the trade of goods and services and financial flows.



#### Political

It measures political relations with other countries.



#### People to people

It measures the mobility of people in education, tourism and migration, the collaboration in research and innovation, the exchange of culture and communication.



#### Institutional

It measures the regulatory environment to facilitate trade and investment as well as to facilitate the mobility of people.

### SUSTAINABILITY INDEX



#### Social

It measures elements related to poverty, inequality, education, gender balance and inclusive and open societies.



#### Economic / Financial

It measures financial sustainability, economic growth, research expenditure and youth unemployment.



#### Environmental

It measures the domestic environmental status of a country in terms of CO2 emissions, domestic material consumption, forest loss, etc.



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

For more information about ASEM: <https://eeas.europa.eu/asem> [www.aseminfoboard.org](http://www.aseminfoboard.org)

For more information about the Portal: <https://composite-indicators.jrc.ec.europa.eu/asem-sustainable-connectivity/>