**1) Title of the panel**

**Southeast Asia’s Contemporary Relations with Europe: Politics, Security, Economics, and Civil Society**

**2) Convener**

Alfred Gerstl

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**3)** The panel format was chosen to ensure that 3-4 presenters can be selected who have different regional and disciplinary backgrounds to promote the exchange of different views and opinions. A call for papers will be published in case this panel will be accepted.

The panel will not include a discussant, because it deliberately aims to facilitate discussions with the audience.

**4) Brief panel description**

The objective of this panel is to examine Southeast Asia’s contemporary relations with Europe, discussing opportunities and challenges that arise in the areas of politics, security, economics, and civil society. The panel addresses both the relations between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Union (EU) as well as those between individual countries and societies in Southeast Asia and Europe. – In its Indo-Pacific strategy, published in 2021, the EU strongly endorses the regional centrality of ASEAN in Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. Conversely, the majority of the Southeast Asian governments and citizens have a very positive perception of the EU, highlighting the EU’s diplomatic support for regional governance and its economic strength. All in all, the Southeast Asian-European relations are close and very institutionalized –ASEAN and the EU share a strategic partnership since 2020. Especially the economic ties became stronger in the last years, as European trade with Southeast Asia and investments in the region increased considerably. Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam in particular are seen by European companies as an alternative or at least an additional production location to China. Moreover, the defence and security relations improved, too, in particular between Indonesia and France or Singapore and Germany. However, there remain certain bones of contention between Southeast Asia and Europe, notably human rights, environmental and trade issues.

The aim of the panel is to discuss selected aspects of Southeast Asian-European relations in the areas of politics, economics, security, and civil society at the regional, state and civil society levels. For this, the panel organizers invite scholars from different regional and disciplinary backgrounds to submit a presentation to the panel.

(*So far, only one presentation has been accepted. It will examine the EU’s diplomatic and security contributions to ASEAN’s attempts to mitigate the territorial disputes in the South China Sea. The topics of the selected other presentations will be subsequently added to the panel abstract.*)

**5) Single session: 3-4 presenters**

**6) No discussant**