SPEECH BY WILHELM HAFRKAMP,
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE DINNER
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Mr. Minister, Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our Conference is now coming to an end.

I would like first of all to use this opportunity
to extend our sincere thanks to the ASEAN organisers
for the excellent work which has been made in the
preparation and execution of it.

It has been obvious from the beginning
that no efforts have been spared
to ensure that the physical arrangements and the
atmosphere of the Conference would give it the best
possible chances of success.

I think that I can say on behalf of all the participants
that the results of these efforts have exceeded our highest
expectations.

Thank you.

A very special thank must be given
to our host country Indonesia,
its President, Vice president and Ministers
and to the many government officials
who have been involved in the arrangements.

In particular
In particular, I would like to thank the national ASEAN Secretariat and the Department of Industry who - I understand - have been most directly involved for their never failing energy and enthusiasm and for the kindness and friendliness with which they have dealt with the representatives of the Commission.

Indonesia has provided a magnificent framework for the Conference and has guided it with an impressive authority and effectiveness.

To this I must add our gratitude for the overwhelming friendliness and hospitality which we have received.

It is customary to draw conclusions at the end of a Conference.

If we examine
If we examine what has happened this week
the results are gratifying.

I am convinced
    that we have reached the goal we set for ourselves
    when we began our preparations a year or so ago.

I said in my opening statement
    that the purpose of the Conference
    was the establishment of contacts between industrialists
    in the two regions
    and not a sequence of formal declarations.

It is still too early
    to draw definite conclusions on the outcome of the Conference.

We know however from an on-the-spot investigation
    that numerous promising contacts have been established
    between potential partners in our two regions.

Clearly not all these contacts
Clearly not all these contacts will produce concrete results, but if the pattern has been repeated with all the participants in the Conference, we can assume that the grounds have been laid for a very substantial cooperation between enterprises in ASEAN and the Community.

If we look beyond the immediate advantages of this kind of cooperation it may also make a significant contribution at the micro level by bringing about the further development of the economy of the ASEAN region.

This is important in the context of the interdependence between the developing and the developed countries which is becoming evermore apparent and which necessitates growth in the developing as well as in the industrialised countries if the world economy is to start moving again.

This Conference
This Conference is therefore a constructive contribution to the dialogue between the developed and the developing countries.

The Conference is about to disperse but I suggest that it is not over.

We must hope that what has been done here in Jakarta in the last 3 days is only a beginning.

The momentum we have created is bound to continue at the level of contacts between the businessmen of Europe and of ASEAN.

To give added impetus to the development of those contacts we should examine other possibilities and in particular the idea agreed during the Brussels Ministerial Meeting last November of setting up a Trade and Investment Forum to ensure continuing contacts between the business community of the two regions.

The Commission of the European Communities
The Commission of the European Communities is ready to do all it can on the European side to assure that this is brought about as soon as possible.

We and the ASEAN governments can, however, be nor more than honest brokers.

Our role will be
to bring the right people from the business community together and then leave them to decide how cooperation can best be realised.

I would like to reiterate our sincere thanks to our ASEAN and Indonesian colleagues whose untiring efforts have made an invaluable contribution to the success of this Conference and for the spirit of ASEAN friendliness which has been displayed at every stage during the proceedings.

The European Community
The European Community is full of admiration for the progress which ASEAN has made in the last four years both politically and economically and I would invite everyone to rise to toast the continued solidarity and progress of the Association of South East Asian Nations and the continued cooperation between ASEAN and Europe.