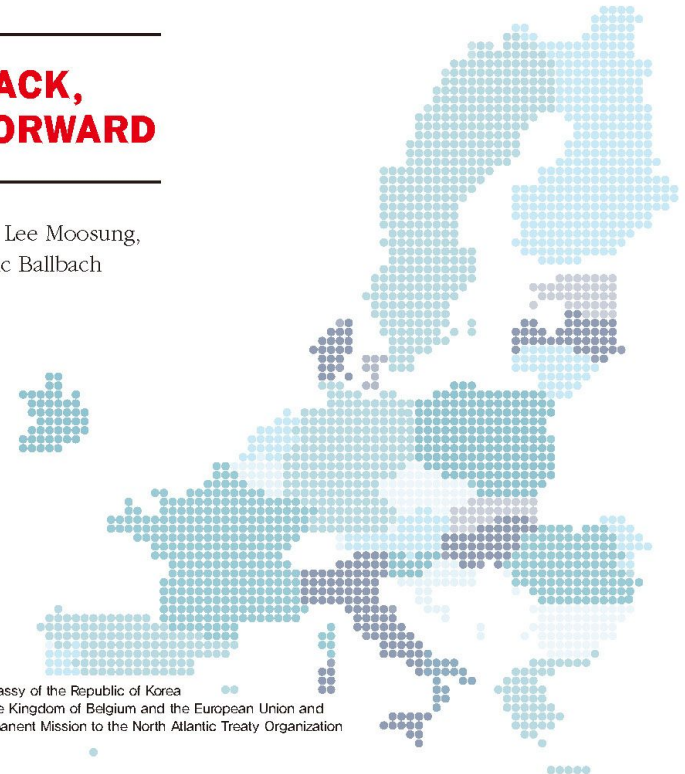




60 YEARS OF EU-KOREA RELATIONS, 1963-2023

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

Edited by Kim Sihong, Lee Moosung,
Nicola Casarini and Eric Ballbach



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Reflecting on this journey and broadening the breadth of the EU-RoK relations is a shared endeavor, which benefits from a regular dialogue between the academic, economic and scientific world and policy makers on the complex interplay of geopolitical and socio-economic factors. It is in this spirit, that I believe this publication by distinguished Korean and European scholars will provide interesting lenses to analyse and inspire the EU-Korea Strategic Partnership.

- María CASTILLO FERNÁNDEZ, EU Ambassador to the Republic of Korea

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The year 2023 marks the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the European Union. In this meaningful year, Korea and the EU held the Korea-EU Summit in May, not only commemorating the six-decade journey but also charted a course for the next 60 years. In a world characterized by dynamic shifts and challenges, Korea and the EU pledged to deepen and expand our partnership particularly in the futures-oriented areas such as green, health and digital.

- Ryu Jeonghyun, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union and Permanent Mission to the NATO



Embassy of the Republic of Korea
to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union and
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This book commemorates the 60th anniversary of the bilateral relations between the Republic of Korea and the European Union (EU), offering reflections on the past and insights into the future. Since establishing official diplomatic relations in 1963, there were few substantial exchanges between the two sides in the early period. However, the unification of Eastern and Western Europe in the 1990s, coupled with the deepening of globalization, laid the foundation for a strong partnership.

This period coincided with Korea's efforts to diversify its international relations after the successful hosting of the Seoul Olympics. Recognizing the significance of Asia, the EU articulated its "Towards a New Asia Strategy" in 1994, culminating in a Framework Agreement for Trade and Cooperation with the Republic of Korea in 1996.

As the 21st century unfolded, the multilateral trade order faced obstacles under the Doha Development Agenda at the WTO, prompting a shift towards bilateral trade agreements. After two and half years of negotiations, the EU and Korea signed the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), fostering rapid development in bilateral relations. Currently, both parties hold the Strategic Partnership through the revision of the existing Framework Agreement.

The 50th anniversary in 2013 marked a milestone where both parties affirmed each other as like-minded partners. In 2014, the Crisis Management Agreement was reached, solidifying the relationship as Korea became the first Asian country to sign major political, economic, and security agreements. And the Korea-EU Summit in Seoul on May 22nd, 2023, reasserted regional and global cooperation, consolidating the strategic partnership.

In the current landscape marked by changes in globalization, geopolitical tensions, and shifts in global supply chains, both the EU and Korea uphold free trade as natural partners

with shared values. They also advocate for a rules-based international order, human rights, and a market economy.

Looking ahead, we anticipate further strengthening of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on promising areas such as green partnership, digital collaboration, and joint efforts in health and research and development.

This publication of the 60th-anniversary book is made possible by the generous support of the EU and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the contributors from both Korea and Europe who played a crucial role in the success of this book project.

Kim Sihong

(Professor and Jean Monet Chair,

Graduate School of International and Area Studies, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies)

Foreword 1

RYU JEONGHYUN

**AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM AND
THE EUROPEAN UNION AND PERMANENT MISSION TO THE NATO**

The year 2023 marks the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the European Union. In this meaningful year, Korea and the EU held the Korea-EU Summit in May, not only commemorating the six-decade journey but also charted a course for the next 60 years. In a world characterized by dynamic shifts and challenges, Korea and the EU pledged to deepen and expand our partnership particularly in the futures-oriented areas such as green, health and digital.

“60 Years of Korea-EU Relations, 1963-2023: Looking Back, Looking Forward,” stands as a comprehensive volume curated by distinguished scholars and experts from Korea and Europe. As we stand at the crossroads of our diplomatic ties, this volume offers readers a retrospective lens through meticulously researched chapters, traversing the various dimensions of the Korea-EU partnership.

From the early years explored by Kim Sihong to contemporary issues discussed by experts such as Eric J. Ballbach, Mason Richey, and Lee Moosung, the book delves into diplomatic, political, and security interactions between Korea and the EU. Nicola Casarini and Bernhard Seliger provide insights into the EU’s role on the Korean Peninsula and EU-DPRK Relations, respectively, addressing one of the world’s most challenging diplomatic arenas.

Kang Yoo-duk examines economic and trade relations, Ahn Sangwook explores the transformation of the global supply chain, and Chung Saewon dissects the challenges and opportunities in cyber security and data partnership. Educational and cultural cooperation are illuminated by Kim Bongchul and Yoon Sungwon.

Chapters such as Reciprocal Perceptions on Korea and the EU by Han Jeonghun, R&D and Technology Cooperation by Tomasz Wierzbowski, and The Future of EU-Korea Rela-

tions by Michael Reiterer weave together the threads of the past, present, and future.

As we navigate through these pages, the aim is to capture the essence of this enduring partnership and illuminate the path forward. Now we're living in the inter-twined world, where the impacts of regional issues can be felt all across the world. Security and peace of Europe is inseparable from that of the Indo-Pacific. Recent geopolitical crises in Ukraine, the DPRK's nuclear and missile program, and the Israel-Palestine conflict have underscored the need for robust collaboration among like-minded partners to address these complex challenges.

The ROK-EU Summit in Seoul in 2023 May stands as a testament to the robustness of our relationship, with a commitment to addressing common global challenges arising from geopolitical crisis. Recognizing the inseparable prosperity and security of Europe and the Indo-Pacific, I would like to highlight that Korea and the EU should strive together to further promote rules-based order worldwide. In conclusion, these short remarks express the anticipation for a brighter future for Korea and the EU, built on the foundation of a steadfast and forward-looking partnership for the freedom, peace and prosperity of the region.

Foreword 2

MARÍA CASTILLO FERNÁNDEZ
EU AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

2023 is a special year for the EU and the Republic of Korea as we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1963.

Looking back, the EU-Korea relations have greatly expanded over the past six decades, along with far-reaching changes and advances in our societies, economies, scientific fields of study and digital technologies. Both sides have grown into strategic partners sharing universal values, promoting peace, prosperity and security, but also addressing important global challenges such as climate change and a global pandemic.

The European Community developed into a unique economic and political union, the EU, which is today also a major global provider of security, development and environmental protection. South Korea has transformed into the fourth largest economy in Asia and, an aspiring global pivotal state more engaged in the Asia-Pacific and global challenges.

The ROK was the first country in Asia with whom the EU concluded three key agreements, an encompassing Framework Agreement, an ambitious Free Trade Agreement, and a Framework Participation Agreement in crisis management operations. The EU-ROK relationship is deep and encompasses around 40 regular dialogues covering economic, political, security and cultural cooperation.

Looking forward, and as reaffirmed by our respective leaders during the 10th EU-ROK Summit, the EU-ROK partnership is grounded in common interests and the shared values of democracy, human rights, the rule of law, effective multilateralism, open, free and fair trade, and the rules-based international order.

Through the recently launched EU-Korea digital and green partnerships, we will deepen cooperation on various digital and data protection issues and on industrial competitiveness,

and on transitioning towards a net-zero economy by 2050. We will expand cooperation in sectors such as climate change, energy and environment, education, health, transport and Research and Innovation, in a future-oriented and mutually beneficial way, including in the framework of our respective Indo-Pacific strategies and the EU's Global Gateway.

Reflecting on this journey and broadening the breadth of the EU-ROK relations is a shared endeavor, which benefits from a regular dialogue between the academic, economic and scientific world and policy makers on the complex interplay of geopolitical and socio-economic factors. It is in this spirit, that I believe this publication by distinguished Korean and European scholars will provide interesting lenses to analyse and inspire the EU-Korea Strategic Partnership.

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