

Mahathir as panel chairman gets EEC support

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JAKARTA, Sun. — The European Economic Community (EEC) has indicated that it will support the candidacy of Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad for the post of Chairman of the International Conference on Drugs Abuse (ICD) scheduled to be held in Vienna next year.

EEC officials who are here for the two-day Asean-EEC ministerial meeting said the European grouping would have no problem in supporting the candidacy of the Malaysian Prime Minister "as Malaysia's commitment in fighting against narcotics abuse has already earned world-wide recognition".

A Bernama report said the matter would be discussed by the Asean and EEC Foreign Ministers at the two-day Asean-EEC ministerial meeting beginning here tomorrow.

Asean Foreign Ministers and six of their counterparts from EEC member countries have already arrived here.

Drugs detection

Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Rais Yatim said on arrival at the airport last night that Asean had endorsed Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir as its candidate for the post "and in this context we will be enlisting the support of the EEC".

He said feelers had also been sent to other blocs, including the African States, and the re-

poppy farmers would also be discussed.

Other political issues to be discussed by the Asean-EEC ministerial meeting will include Kampuchea, Afghanistan, refugees from Indochina, East-West relations, South Africa, West Asia and international terrorism.

Senior officials of Asean and EEC have finalised the agenda for the meeting to be declared open by President Suharto tomorrow morning.

The Asean Foreign Ministers had an informal meeting at the Asean secretariat here today to study the agenda and finalise talking points for tomorrow's meeting.

The Malaysian delegation includes Foreign Ministry secretary-general Tan Sri Zohari Abidin Sulong, senior officials from Wisma Putra, Primary Industry and Trade and Industry Ministries.

A joint declaration would be issued at the end of the meeting.

sponse was encouraging although one or two countries might want to name their own candidates for the post.

Datuk Rais said narcotics would be one of the important issues to be discussed at the Asean-EEC ministerial meeting.

The stress would be on the training of personnel for enforcement work, updating equipment for drugs detection and co-operation in the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts.

Possible crop substitution projects for the traditional