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**“Facilitating peaceful integration: the forgotten role of transnational political parties”**

Title II Provisions on Democratic Principles Article 10 (4), of the Lisbon Treaty, reads: ‘Political Parties at European Level [more commonly referred to as Euro-parties] contribute to forming European political awareness and to expressing the will of the citizens of the Union.’ If the EU is viewed as ‘a role model for peaceful integration’ then the need to recognize the role of political parties that transcend the nation-state, in the Asia-Pacific region, should not be ignored. While remaining mindful not to overstate the contribution of the Euro- parties, as part of the on-going integration process, the goal of this paper will be to compare developments with the situation in this part of the world and ask if there is a role to play for such entities as part of the wider region-building processes? First, the paper will highlight the contemporary development of the Euro -parties during the past decade, including the promulgation of the party regulation (2003-4 and 2006), the establishment of the European Political Foundations, the attempts at forging a common European campaign during the 2009 European Parliamentary elections. Second, it will introduce a number of embryonic transnational party political organizations from across the Asia-Pacific region such as the International Conference of Asian Political Parties – ICAPP; Council of Asian Liberal Democrats – CALD; and the Centrist Democrat International- Asia Pacific. It will then ask what potential is there, and where this might lead over time, for enhancing the role and significance of these entities; and what factors might facilitate such a process and what factors might present an obstacle for such a process. In so doing, the paper will ask if there are lessons to be learned from the experiences of the Euro-parties.