



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 3 December 2007
16072/07 (Presse 280)

**INDIA-EU SUMMIT
New Delhi, 30 November 2007**

India-EU Joint Action Plan: Implementation Report

1. The sixth India-EU Summit held in New Delhi (7 September 2005) endorsed a comprehensive Joint Action Plan (JAP) setting out a road map for India-EU interactions in diverse sectors. The seventh India-EU Summit held in Helsinki in October 2006 issued the first report on the progress of the implementation of the JAP. Given that the activities undertaken in the framework of the JAP constitute an important contribution to the Strategic Partnership, both sides take satisfaction in reporting the following achievements:

Strengthening dialogue and consultation mechanisms

2. Since the seventh India-EU Summit, the two sides have sustained high-level interactions and have taken forward strides in strengthening their dialogue.

P R E S S

3. The President of India visited Strasbourg on 25-26 April 2007 at the invitation of the President of the European Parliament. During the visit he addressed the European Parliament (EP) and met with the President of the European Parliament. In his address on the 'Dynamics of Unity of Nations' President Kalam projected the many similarities shared by India and the European Union as multi-cultural, multilinguistic and multi-religious entities. During the visit the President also addressed the International Space University at Strasbourg on 'Creative Leadership for Future Challenges of Space'.

4. During the reporting period there have been two Senior Officials meetings and a meeting of the Joint Commission to review the progress made on the JAP. Meetings under other consultation mechanisms have also taken place, viz the India-EU Energy Panel and its Joint Working Groups, Security Dialogue, sectoral Working Groups on Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology; Agriculture and Marine Products; Food Processing; Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues.

Political dialogue and co-operation

5. The EU was associated with SAARC as an Observer State and attended the 14th SAARC Summit held in New Delhi on 1-4 April 2007 in order to share experiences regarding ongoing integration processes.

6. In the field of effective multilateralism, India and the EU cooperated closely. Both sides encouraged the establishment of the United Nations Human Rights Council, of which presently India and seven EU Member States are currently members. Both sides also encouraged the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, which has India and seven EU Member States as well as the European Community among the members of its organisational committee. Both sides have held various consultations in New York and Geneva to discuss topics of common interest. Both sides reiterated their resolve to continue working together in multilateral fora to further common interests. Both sides also agreed to intensify dialogue on peacekeeping, peacebuilding and post-conflict assistance, three areas where their respective contributions are crucial to UN activities.

7. India's External Affairs Minister, H.E. Mr Pranab Mukherjee, participated for the first time in the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Hamburg, Germany in May 2007. The EU welcomed India's participation in the ASEM meeting and reiterated its endorsement of the incorporation of India in the fold of the ASEM process of dialogue and co-operation linking the EU and Asia. The EU-India ministerial Troika meeting on 31 May 2007 in Berlin was an opportunity to take stock of recent progress in the implementation of the Strategic Partnership and to discuss how to further intensify it.

8. The second meeting of the India-EU Security Dialogue was held in Berlin on 2 May 2007. The two sides had fruitful discussions on global and regional security issues, disarmament and non-proliferation.

9. The India-EU human rights dialogue, with the participation of EU Ambassadors, was held in New Delhi on 12 December 2006. An India-EU experts seminar on minorities was also held in New Delhi on 16 March 2007.

10. Both sides continue to share concern at the scourge of terror that has affected both India and the countries of the EU. The issue was discussed between the two sides at various levels. The sixth India-EU consultations on terrorism took place in Brussels in December 2005. Both sides decided to have the next meeting in 2008.

Bringing together people and cultures

11. The India-EU Civil Society Round Table continues to be a useful forum for involving civil society stakeholders in the Strategic Partnership. The eleventh meeting of Round table was held in September 2007 in New Delhi. The members discussed issues of social development, trade and investment, and renewable energy. The India-EU Civil Society Internet Forum was launched on 1 May 2007, by Mr Anand Sharma, India's Minister of State for External Affairs.

12. The India-EU Joint Working Group on Consular Affairs held its meeting in New Delhi on 8 December 2006 to discuss consular and visa services.

13. Both sides welcome the intensification of India-EU parliamentary exchanges. The European Parliament created a new Delegation for Relations with India in March 2007. Ms Neena Gill is Chairperson of the Delegation.

14. There has been a substantial increase in the number of scholarships awarded under the Erasmus Mundus India Window during the last year. A European Higher Education Fair was organized in Delhi on 24-26 November 2006 as well as the Asia Link Symposium on 24 November 2006, also in Delhi, on academic exchanges and mobility. The two sides firmly intend to cooperate further in this field.

15. Cultural initiatives have been organized by both sides. The Presidency of the European Union organized the European Union Film Festival 2007 in various cities in India i.e. New Delhi (27 April – 04 May), Pune (04 – 11 May), Calicut / Kozhikode (14 – 18 May) and Kolkata (19 – 24 May).

Economic policy dialogue and co-operation

16. All the Joint Working Groups (JWG) conceptualized under JAP have been established. The first meeting of the India-EU JWG on Agriculture and Marine Products was held in New Delhi in February 2007. The second meeting of the JWG on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards/Technical Barriers to Trade (SPS/TBT) was held in Brussels in October 2007. The meeting was useful in providing a better understanding of various regulatory issues. The first meeting of the JWG on Food Processing was held in November 2006.

17. The first EU-India Ministerial Science Conference took place in New Delhi in February 2007. The meeting had a strong representation from EU Member States, from Science & Technology (S&T) Departments, and from leading scientists from both India and the EU. This was the first time that EU Member States and the EC met in a science ministerial conference outside the EU. The meeting allowed for an active discussion on key co-operation priorities, and on the potential benefits of a Coordinated Joint Call for proposals with co-investment of resources, including funds for sponsoring India-EU research projects and means to deepen EU-India S&T collaboration under the India-EU S&T Co-operation Agreement and the seventh Framework Programme. An open interactive session was held with a large number of Indian students as well as a meeting with leading CEOs from various sectors. The outcome was the 'New Delhi Communiqué', which outlined the future of India-EU cooperation in Research and Development. In particular, leaders welcomed the expected renewal this year of the successful India-EU Science and Technology Agreement of 2002.

18. The fourth Meeting of the EU-India Science and Technology Steering Committee took place on 8 November 2007 in New Delhi. At the meeting a road map was established for S&T co-operation from 2008 onwards, which will include Strategic Workshops in India on New and Renewable Energy, and the transfer of European experience and best practices on innovation through networks and centres. The EU and India are now expected to launch their first-ever 'Coordinated Joint Call for Proposals', which will be on computational material science.

19. The first India-EU Macroeconomic Dialogue took place in New Delhi on 12 July 2007. The two sides discussed their macroeconomic situations and policies. They also agreed to hold the second EU-India Macroeconomic Dialogue in 2008 in Brussels. Following the successful first meeting of the Financial Services dialogue meeting in June 2006, both sides look forward to the second meeting to be held in New Delhi in 2008.

20. The second India-EU Environment Forum on 'Waste Management - A Cradle to Grave Approach' was convened in Delhi on 7 December 2006. The Action Plan Support Facility Financing Agreement was signed with Government of India on 2 March 2007 and the environment component of this programme is currently being put in place. The EC-India Joint Working Group on Environment met on 9-10 July 2007 in Brussels. The meeting discussed a wide range of issues and identified areas for further co-operation.

21. Clean Development and Climate Change: An International conference on 'Adaptation to Climate Variability and Change', jointly organised by the European Commission, the Indian Ministry of the Environment and Forests, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies, was held in New Delhi in December 2006. The India-EU Climate Change Research workshop took place in February 2007 in New Delhi. The India-EC JWG on Environment held in July 2007 in Brussels had useful discussions on climate change.

22. Energy is an important area of ongoing and future policy dialogue and practical co-operation between India and the EU. The two sides noted the valuable contribution of the India-EU Energy Panel and its working groups, which had its third meeting on 20 June 2007 in Brussels. All four working groups met in the first half of 2007 before the meeting of Energy Panel. It was agreed to expand the scope of work of the working group on Coal with alternate meetings adopting different emphasis on mining oriented and conversion technologies respectively. The two sides stand ready to identify a new flagship project on R&D in solar energy. It was also decided to commence four EU-funded studies under the various JWGS in 2008, with a fifth study carried to be out by India. India is also a participant in the International Biofuels Forum, which met twice so far: in July 2007 in Brussels and in October 2007 in New Delhi.

23. The fifth annual India-EU Joint Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) was held in September 2007 in New Delhi. The dialogue provided an opportunity to discuss policy, regulatory and research matters and define a concrete list of actions to enhance further our co-operation. On research, 22 Indian organisations were involved in 14 joint projects launched under the Information Society Technology (IST) programme in the sixth Framework Programme. To this end two workshops were also held in India in September 2007.

24. The first India-EU Aviation Summit was held successfully on 22-24 November 2006 in New Delhi. The Aviation Summit demonstrated the growing importance of EU-India relations in civil aviation and the excellent collaboration between EU and Indian aviation authorities and industries. A Joint Declaration was signed at the Civil Aviation Summit setting out a roadmap for future co-operation including the finalisation of the horizontal aviation agreement on a priority basis and the agreement on future technical co-operation in early 2007. On 22-23 October 2007, Civil Aviation Minister Mr Praful Patel and the European Commission's Vice-President Barrot met in Brussels to discuss civil aviation co-operation. Four rounds of discussions have taken place on the Civil Aviation Horizontal Agreement. Under the European Commission's new Indicative Programme of co-operation with India, a new programme on civil aviation co-operation is proposed which will build on the successful results of the previous 1999-2006 'India-EU Civil Aviation Co-operation Project'.

25. Two rounds of negotiations on the India-EU Maritime Agreement were successfully held in February 2007 in New Delhi and in July 2007 in Brussels. The negotiations have resulted in better understanding of the respective positions and progress towards a mutually beneficial conclusion of the negotiation process. Both parties look forward to the next round of negotiations which are expected to take place in New Delhi by early 2008.

26. Bilateral contacts were established between the European Commission, the European Space Agency, and the Indian Space Research Organisation during the International Astronautical Congress in Hyderabad on 24-28 September 2007. The discussions constituted the first dialogue and exchange of ideas on possible future co-operation priorities, and both sides expressed a willingness to undertake concrete joint co-operation activities.

27. The European Commission and representatives of the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA) carried out a visit to India in January 2007 to study the Ayurveda system of medicine and specific Ayurveda centers, to gain a better understanding of key regulatory aspects as well as other relevant aspects. The JWG on Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology held its second meeting in India in May 2007 at which the report of the study visit was presented.

28. A meeting of JWG on Agriculture and Marine products took place in New Delhi in February 2007 and discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest. Agriculture Commissioner Fischer Boel, accompanied by a delegation of top EU business executives from the agri-food sector, undertook a promotional visit to India in March 2007 with the aim of fostering and increasing business opportunities between India and EU. The focus of the visit was the 'International Aahar Food Fair' in New Delhi which the Commissioner jointly inaugurated with the Minister of Food Processing Industries.

29. The second Joint Customs Co-ordination Committee Meeting, held in December 2006 in Chennai, had useful discussions in the context of the Joint Customs Cooperation Agreement. Both sides are committed to continue to implement cooperation in the customs area and customs-related IPR components of the Trade and Investment Development Programme.

30. The first India-EU seminar on employment and social policy on 'Skills Development, Training and Employment' took place in November 2006 in New Delhi. During his visit to India for the seminar, EC Employment Commissioner Dr Spidla signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the EC and the Indian Ministry of Labour. The second India-EU seminar on employment and social policy on 'Social security and social protection - key tools for sustainable and responsible growth and development', and a related Senior Officials Meeting, took place in September 2007 in Lisbon. A first high-level tripartite delegation from India visited Lisbon, Brussels and the UK's East Midlands area in September 2007.

31. The India-EU Business Summit held in Helsinki on 12 October 2006, formally established the India-EU CEO Round Table, constituting a forum for high-level CEOs from India and the EU to provide policy recommendations to leaders for the strengthening of the business partnership. In particular, both partners remain committed to continue intensive consultations with industry and business organisations. Investment Facilitation Desks have been set up under the India-EU Trade and Investment Development Programme with a view to facilitate the provision of information to European investors in India. The Commission also proposes to establish a European Business and Technology Centre in India which shall act as a vector for promoting industrial and research partnerships and cooperation between the EU and India in key sectors.

32. The European Commission has adopted the Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 for India, with an indicative total amount of Euro 470 million, which outlines the priorities and provides the financial framework for the funding of co-operation activities in India. In this context, an amount of Euro 260 million has been set aside for the first Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2007–2010. This covers programmes in the health sector, elementary education and implementation of the Joint Action Plan.

Developing Trade and Investment

33. The EU and India have conducted an active dialogue both at the political and technical level in order to re-launch the process of Doha with a view to successfully concluding the multilateral negotiating round, which would bring significant benefits to the global economy in terms of boosting trade and investment.

34. Based on the recommendations of the High Level Trade Group to the seventh India-EU Summit in October 2006 in Helsinki, negotiations for a broad based trade and investment agreement were opened in Brussels on 28-29 June 2007. A second round of negotiations took place in New Delhi during the first week of October 2007. The negotiations have been conducted in a constructive fashion and negotiators have been able to report good progress. The third round of negotiations is scheduled to take place in Brussels on 6-12 December, 2007.

35. The EU and India also continued their dialogue on bilateral trade issues in other forums, such as the EU-India SPS/TBT Working Group which met for the second time in Brussels in October 2007. The next meeting is foreseen to take place in spring in Delhi.