

BUSINESS SUPPORT TO THE EU-INDIA POLICY DIALOGUES

EU-INDIA RELATIONS

The EU is India's largest trading partner. Some of the key points underlying this strong bilateral relationship are as follows:

India's economy is growing rapidly, it is one of the fastest growing major economies on its way to reach around EUR 6.9 trillion by 2030. GDP growth is projected to be 7.5% in 2019-20¹, and India's aspiring middle class provides a solid base for EU businesses to invest and to support job creation.

India's strong growth rate and large market has made it the world's seventh largest economy by nominal GDP and fourth largest by purchasing power parity (PPP)².

2

European companies, many of which are precisely

start-ups and SMEs, are strong in areas such as technology, environment, communications, energy and infrastructure. This wealth of experience and knowledge means that the EU has much to offer to India in its quest to grow and modernise, by offering opportunities in

terms of technology and know-how sharing.

The EU is India's largest trading partner: in 2017, the bilateral trade in goods between the EU and India accounted for over € 85 billion and accounting for 13.1% of India's total trade with the world⁵. EU-India bilateral services trade has also been growing steadily reaching € 33.7 bn in 2017 (6.1% growth annually between 2010 to 2017).

In this scenario, India seeks to establish itself as a global hub for manufacturing, research and innovation by attracting foreign direct investment and boost its output in R&D.

The EU is one of the largest investors in India, with a stock of more than $\ensuremath{\in}$ 70 Billion in investments. EU companies have so far contributed to the creation of approximately 6 million jobs in India (1.7 million through direct employment and 5 million through indirect employment)³, a number which is expected to increase as India continues to look as an attractive investment destination with an improving business environment.

- India's significant leap to rank 77 of the latest Ease of Doing Business Index⁴ is a positive indicator for foreign businesses entering the market.

Key Pillars of EU-India Partnership

The following policy dialogues are key pillars of the EU-India relation that can further spur business collaborations, trade and investments. The focus of these dialogues and cooperation areas is on providing access to green technologies and digital solutions; achieving resource efficiency; implementing regulatory models and legislative frameworks; and harmonising standards in key sectors:



EU India Policy Dialogue on Environment

Resource Efficiency Initiative | The Indo-European Water Partnership (IEWP) The Clean Energy and Climate Partnership (CECP)



EU-India Policy Dialogue on ICT

Project on ICT Standardisation Collaboration



EU India Policy Dialogue on Urbanisation

Smart and Sustainable Urban Partnership



EU India cooperation on Agriculture, Sustainable Mobility, Transport and Logistics



The 'Business Support to the EU-India Policy Dialogues' Project

Drawing its inspiration from the conclusions reached at the 2017 EU-India Summit, the 'Business Support to the EU-India Policy Dialogues' Project aims to spur enhanced bilateral business cooperation on the above-mentioned policy dialogues by strengthening and supporting the businesses.

Project Objectives

The programme aims precisely at tapping into such business opportunities and focusses in particular, but not exclusively, to areas such as environment, energy, climate, mobility, urbanisation and ICT, where we already have an advanced cooperation – in the form of Policy Dialogue - with India. The initiative will bring together European and Indian SMEs through joint actions, business to business matchmaking and exchanges on best practices. The programme will carry out technical market studies, constitute a database of EU companies that can offer technical solutions and create an online platform to share information on the business opportunities and connect Indian and EU business. Bringing European and Indian business together to complement these key dialogues with a business angle, will not only facilitate business cooperation but would also support the transfer of advanced EU technologies and innovative practices which can be adapted for the localized and affordable solutions for the Indian market.

Providing a horizontal business cooperation facility to facilitate technology collaborations, and exchange on standards and business best practices.





Expected Results Under The Project

The above objectives are expected to be realised by providing European businesses in India with better insights on opportunities as well as support and facilitate the engagement with Indian stakeholders within the frame of sectoral partnerships. Specifically, this includes:

- Identification of European technical and business solutions relevant to the targeted policy dialogues, which can be aligned with the demand in India.
- Enhanced dissemination of information regarding European best practices and technologies in key sectors leading to a diversified presence of EU companies in the Indian market.
- Enhanced discussion on regulatory aspects and standards with the targeted policy dialogues, to support an increase in business and technology collaborations.

The project is led by GFA Consulting Group GmbH (Hamburg, Germany) in consortium with EBTC - European Business and Technology Centre (New Delhi, India), implementation partner India, and EUROCHAMBRES (Brussels, Belgium), implementation partner Europe.

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