Comments by
President Van Rompuy and President Barroso
ahead of the EU-INDIA Summit

The European Union and India will hold their 11th annual Summit in Brussels on 10 December. The EU will be represented by European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and by European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, accompanied by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton, and by Karel De Gucht, the EU Trade commissioner. The Republic of India will be represented by Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister, assisted by Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce and Industry, and Shiv Shanka Menon, National Security Advisor.

The main focus of the Summit will be the strengthening of the political dimension of the EU-India strategic partnership, in particular through increased cooperation in security and counterterrorism. The Summit will also provide a strong impetus for an early conclusion of a broad-based investment and trade agreement. Both partners will address regional and global issues of common interest and concern, as well as a wide range of joint activities and policy dialogues in various sectors of cooperation.

In advance of the Summit President Van Rompuy stated: "I am confident that the EU-India Summit will deliver great results for the mutual benefit of our people. We will give fresh momentum to the ongoing negotiations on the Trade and Investment Agreement, which will bring significant economic benefits to both sides and further strengthen our strategic partnership. We will also discuss recent developments aimed at reinforcing global economic governance in particular in the G20 context. Finally, I look forward to launch EU-India cooperation in the field of security, in particular in the area of counter-terrorism."

President Barroso said: "I am particularly confident that we will make headway towards a Free Trade Agreement at this Summit, bringing together markets of one and a half billion people. We should now give the final push to these talks so we can hail a historic agreement when we meet next year in Delhi. We will also give renewed political impetus to our cooperation in the field of energy. We can do even more to exploit the potential of green and clean technologies together, to the benefit of our citizens and businesses."

For more information see also:
Website of President Van Rompuy
http://www.european-council.europa.eu/summitswiththirdcountries