Political Declaration on the India-EU Strategic Partnership

India and the EU, as the largest democracies in the world, share common values and beliefs that make them natural partners in the modern inter-connected world. We share a common commitment to democracy, pluralism, human rights and the rule of law and seek to pursue economic progress and prosperity for our peoples in a peaceful, stable and secure global environment.

The fifth Summit at The Hague on 8 November 2004 endorsed the India-EU Strategic Partnership. This is a qualitative transformation in the way we engage as equal partners and work together in partnership with the world at large. Today in Delhi, at the sixth India-EU Summit, we commit ourselves to strengthened dialogue and engagement as Strategic Partners.

In acknowledgement of our Strategic Partnership and our shared responsibility to contribute to international peace, security and prosperity, we today adopt a comprehensive and forward looking Action Plan.

Political Dialogue and Cooperation

• We recognize the fact that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and reaffirm our condemnation of all acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as criminal and unjustifiable, irrespective of their motives. As part of our joint efforts to fight terrorism, we will establish contacts between the Indian and EU Counter Terrorism Coordinators, work towards blocking access to terrorist financing and co-operate in the fight against money laundering.

• We hold a common belief in the fundamental importance of multilateralism and in the essential role of the United Nations for maintaining international peace and security, promoting the economic and social advancement of all people and meeting global threats and challenges. We will work closely to promote effective multilateralism and strengthen UN peacekeeping and peace building through exchanging best practice and engaging in joint training.
• We will establish an EU-India security dialogue on global and regional security issues, disarmament and non-proliferation.

• We will work together to uphold human rights in a spirit of equality and mutual respect.

Economic Dialogue and Cooperation; Trade and Investment

• We will establish a High Level Trade Group to explore ways of increasing bilateral economic flows, including discussions on the possible launch of bilateral negotiations on a comprehensive trade and investment agreement. Within this framework we agree to explore the scope of a possible investment agreement.

• We will aim to enhance significantly EU’s development co-operation in social sectors, specifically in the universalisation of elementary education (Sarva Siksha Abhiyan) and the National Rural Health Mission of the Government of India.

• We will launch an India-EU Initiative on Clean Development and Climate Change, with the aim of promoting cleaner technologies and their use.

• We will build on our cooperation in the energy sector to develop more efficient, cleaner and alternative energy chains and work to secure India’s membership in the ITER nuclear fusion project.

• We will strengthen our collaboration in science and technology, especially by looking to co-sponsor collaborative research projects in areas such as genomics, nanotechnology and high-energy physics. In biotechnology we will cooperate in confronting the global challenges posed by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

• We will conclude a framework agreement on India’s participation in Galileo Satellite Navigation Systems.

• We will work towards an agreement on Maritime Transport and launch a comprehensive dialogue on Civil Aviation.
• We will encourage business-to-business contacts, including holding a Business Round Table, along with Business Summits.

• We will continue to work closely together to achieve a successful Hong Kong Ministerial Conference that delivers an ambitious package allowing completion of the Doha Development Agenda in 2006.

**Bringing together People and Cultures**

• We will hold dialogues on migration and consular issues in the context of the opportunities and challenges flowing from the large-scale movement of people between us.

• We will increase educational co-operation through the facilitation of academic exchanges, such as Erasmus Mundus, and through encouraging the development of EU studies in India and Indian studies in the EU.

• We will continue to support civil society dialogue and the EU-India Round Table.

New Delhi, 7 September 2005