Joint Communique: Second India-EU Summit

New Delhi, 23 November, 2001

1. The second Summit between India and the EU was held in New Delhi, India on 23rd November, 2001. India was represented by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee. The EU was represented by the Prime Minister of Belgium, Guy Verhofstadt, in his capacity as President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission Romano Prodi.

2. Indian Ministers Jaswant Singh (External Affairs), Murali Manohar Joshi (Human Resource Development, Ocean Development and Science & Technology), Murasoli Maran (Commerce & Industry), as well as the Belgian Minister of State Ms Anne-Mie Neyts-Uytterbroeck (Foreign Affairs) and the European Commissioner Pascal Lamy (Trade) participated in the Summit.

3. The leaders adopted the following statement:

**Developing the Full Potential of our Partnership**

4. We, India and the EU, global actors in the multipolar world, remain determined to further expand our relationship. We will continue to pursue this objective on the basis of the India-EU Joint Declaration adopted at the Lisbon Summit in June 2000, which sets out the framework of our strategic partnership. We welcome the significant and concrete results achieved through the Lisbon Agenda for Action. We will continue on this path and have adopted further actions to be implemented before our next Summit, scheduled to be held in Copenhagen in 2002.

5. We welcome in particular the steadily intensifying political dialogue at all levels. We will deepen this dialogue with a view to achieving more substantive results and to focus in particular on strategic issues of common concern. Based on our shared fundamental values, we will step up efforts to promote democracy and to address human rights issues at the international and bilateral levels.

6. In order to broaden our institutional contacts, we encourage the Indian Parliament and the European Parliament to co-operate in promoting bilateral relations.

7. We commend the contribution of our industry to the “India-EU Joint Initiative for Enhancing Trade and Investment” focussing in a first round on the sectors of food processing, engineering, information technology and telecommunications. We call on the India-EC Joint Commission to ensure efficient follow up of the recommendations made by the India-EU Business Summit. We encourage our industry to launch a second round of the “Joint Initiative” to cover areas such as financial services, textiles, biotechnology, energy and power and any other mode of infrastructure.

8. We have come quite a distance in making civil society contacts a critical element of our partnership. We appreciate in particular the recommendations of the second successful meeting of the India-EU Round Table of eminent personalities. We also consider the holding of the EU-
India Think Tank Seminar to be an important step towards better mutual understanding and bringing our peoples closer together. The further development of both initiatives will promote a dynamic civil society in India-EU relations.

**Addressing Global Challenges**

9. We are committed to strengthening UN’s capacity to play its role in development and maintenance of international peace and security. We recognise the growing importance of both India and the EU in the UN, including our contribution to UN Peacekeeping and international peace and security.

10. We support the international coalition in the fight against terrorism, wherever it occurs and regardless of its motives. We will ensure that the fight against terrorism is conducted in accordance with the rule of law. Based on the results of our experts’ meeting on counter-terrorism, we decide to pursue our bilateral dialogue and to support early adoption, and implementation, of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. We call for early signing, and ratification of existing UN Conventions against terrorism. We welcome adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1373 on 28th September, 2001 and support its full implementation by all Member States.

11. We call for full implementation of UNSC resolution 1368, and action taken in pursuance of the resolution. We hope that the current evolution of events will ensure that Afghanistan is no longer a basis for terrorist organisations and training camps, and will pave the way for a stable and peaceful government. The Afghan people deserve a government which is independent, broad-based, multi-ethnic, truly representative and which responds to their needs and aspirations and respects the legitimate security interests of all countries concerned. We support the central role of the UN in a wide framework of international consultations to promote peace, stability and reconstruction in Afghanistan, and are willing to make our contribution in this regard. We are committed to humanitarian assistance for the people of Afghanistan and its long-term reconstruction needs after return of peace. We re-affirm warm and friendly ties with the people of Afghanistan.

12. We also agree to step up our initial efforts to combat international drug trafficking and drug abuse, its linkages with terrorism, to fight organised crime, arms trafficking, money laundering and trafficking of persons, in particular of women and children.

13. We affirm that democracy and pluralism are the best safeguards of human rights of individuals, and essential basis for good governance. We are committed to promote and protect all human rights, including the right to development, and fundamental freedoms, bearing in mind their universal, indivisible and inter-dependent character as expressed at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. Economic growth and development contribute to fullest enjoyment of human rights.

14. We recognise that one of the greatest challenges of the new millennium will be eradication of poverty. We re-affirm our commitment to continue working together closely on improving the standards of living and quality of life for our citizens.
15. We are resolved to be partners in promoting global peace and security. We reiterate our unequivocal commitment to the ultimate goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons and to general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. We will continue to work together for the complete eradication of Chemical and Biological Weapons and for strengthening the relevant international treaty norms against these weapons. We will begin to address the issue of ballistic missile proliferation in all its aspects. We agree to work towards commencement of negotiations on a fissile materials cut off treaty banning future production of fissile material for weapons purposes. We will step up cooperation in the fields of export controls of dangerous materials.

16. We shall also continue to strengthen our consultation on multilateral environmental issues in addressing the challenges of promoting sustainable development and protecting the environment. We shall strive for the early ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to address climate change and global environmental degradation in pursuance of the agreement at Bonn. We shall also maintain close interaction on the preparatory work relating to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development due for 2002 and cooperate on common concerns. EU shall enhance co-operation with India, to facilitate flows of investment and technologies and joint production of scientific knowledge in this regard.

17. We remain determined to contribute to peace, stability and development in our respective regions and beyond and consider that regional integration is a major contribution towards this goal.

Further Deepening our Dialogue on Economic and Development Cooperation

18. The continuing High Level India-EU Economic Dialogue has helped to build mutual confidence and understanding, and allowed us to address a number of important bilateral trade and economic issues. We remain committed to intensifying this dialogue and to identify further action that will enhance trade and investment between the EU and India. We also recognise the need to foster even greater interaction with our respective business communities in achieving this goal.

19. We commend the initiation of bilateral working groups that have allowed our experts to cover a range of issues, and fully support them in continuing to address topics of mutual interest so as to facilitate and maximise our respective market access needs.

20. We welcome the steps taken to set up an expert group on trade defence and note that the first meeting will be held on 4 December 2001. We also welcome the initiative by the European Commission to hold a series of seminars on anti-dumping in India this December.

21. We shall strengthen our development cooperation in order to contribute to India’s economic growth and sustainable development. Education, health and environment will remain the sectors of cooperation for the years ahead. The signing of the Financing Agreement supporting the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan marks a continuation of the EU’s commitment to India’s policy of universalising elementary education. On environment, we shall also cooperate in the holding of
joint workshops, involving key actors, to evolve common initiatives and launch an identification study for setting up the Institute of Environment Technology in India. The EU reiterates its commitment, beyond the significant emergency relief already delivered to Gujarat, to contribute to the medium and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction of the devastated areas.

22. We shall strengthen our bilateral economic co-operation with the aim of enhancing trade and investment flows between India and the EU. We shall further launch a new programme specifically aimed at fostering a mutually enabling economic environment. We are committed to resuming and extending EC-India Economic Cross Cultural Programme. We also encourage our private sector to make full use of existing regional EC programmes. We shall endeavour to promote infrastructure development in India.

23. We express satisfaction with the successful conclusion of the 4th WTO Ministerial Conference held at Doha particularly its development agenda as it further strengthens the multilateral trading system. We will deepen our co-operation in the WTO to this end.

**Expanding our co-operation into new domains**

24. We are pleased to announce the signing of an Agreement on Co-operation in Science and Technology. This agreement will boost the co-operation between our scientific centres of excellence and between our most productive scientists in joint research projects at the cutting edge of science and technology.

25. We share the goal of knowledge based economy and harnessing cutting-edge science and technology to tackle problems of development. EU recognises that India has emerged as a centre of excellence in the field of information technology. Both sides agree to facilitate movement of professionals and provide access for export of software. We have adopted the India-EU Joint vision Statement on ICT at New Delhi and agree to work towards its early implementation.

26. We call for early conclusion of the Agreement on Customs Cooperation. We take note of the exploratory talks on the feasibility of having an Agreement on Maritime Transport.

27. As our political and economic links mature and as our civil societies interact ever more closely, we invite our artists, writers, musicians and filmmakers, as well as the custodians of our rich cultural heritage, to respond to the ever increasing demand by the citizens of India and Europe to learn more about our respective cultures and to participate in cultural events and exchanges. Aware that cultural exchange depends first and foremost on the creative spirits of artists themselves, we shall strive to promote venues and events that facilitate such cultural interaction as well as cooperation between relevant cultural organisations, and call upon the private business sector to assume sponsorships in this regard.