EU-India Summit Sees Progress on Many Fronts

The 11th EU-India Summit led by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the Indian side and President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy and President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso on the European side, concluded in Brussels on 10th of December 2010 with a joint statement recording agreement between leaders on both sides on a broad range of issues. In keeping with past practice, a parallel Business Summit brought together industry leaders on both sides to make practical suggestions on how trade and investment potential could be better realised.

The highlights of the current meeting of the Leaders included the signature of a Joint Declaration on International Terrorism and a Joint Declaration on Culture. These two very different themes are indicative of the wide spectrum that EU-India relations cover today and the many initiatives that are progressing side by side.

The draft Broad-based Agreement on Trade and Investment featured prominently at the Summit, with both sides anticipating a substantial increase in two-way flows of goods, services and capital once the agreement will be signed. Leaders are expecting the conclusion of the negotiations by spring 2011. Calling the Agreement ‘a landmark within reach’ Presidents Van Rompuy and Barroso said that if successful “this will be the largest and most significant trade agreement ever concluded by either the European Union or India, and it will generate sizeable benefits for both our economies.”

The Summit leaders also welcomed the commitment made by G20 leaders at their recent meeting in Seoul to bring the Doha Development Round of multilateral negotiations under the World Trade Organisation to a successful conclusion in the same year.

The 11th Summit was the first to take place after the coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty on December 1, 2009; and it came a few days after the official establishment of the European External Action Service which brings together competences on many areas of external policy under a single organisation.

Following the establishment of the European External Action Service, our email address has changed.

New email ID: delegation-india@eeas.europa.eu
Accordingly, co-operation in the fields of security, defence and counter-terrorism have made considerable headway in the last twelve months. The two sides expressed their strong commitment to the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and have agreed to cooperate in pushing for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. The Joint Declaration foresees sustained dialogue at the political level; cooperation between police and law enforcement agencies on both sides to share information; research cooperation on cyber security and other technical areas; improved security at border points and in aviation; sharing of best practices on how to manage the consequences of terrorist attacks and finally, cooperation at the level of the UN. Cooperation in the field of security included - during the Summit - an in depth discussion on anti-piracy as well as on the situation in the Gulf of Aden and off Somalia as the European and Indian sides are involved in and looking into possibilities to extend their current cooperation.

In addition to the review of their bilateral relations, the Leaders exchanged views on the situation in India’s region. During their discussion as regards the developments in the EU they in particular had an opportunity to talk about the economic and financial situation of the Eurozone.

Several initiatives have been launched under the EU-India Science and Technology Co-operation Agreement to promote joint research and innovation in areas of mutual interest through joint calls for proposals in fields such as renewable energy. This was welcomed by the Leaders of the two sides, who also expressed their resolve to conclude an agreement in the areas of satellite navigation.

The year ahead is therefore an important one for EU-India relations and it will require hard work and commitment on both sides for the successful completion of an ambitious agenda.

Water: The EU and India - Close Partners

Water scarcity and quality are matters of growing concern in India and Europe; and this has encouraged a search for solutions in both regions. In recent years, the additional dimension of climate change has started to alter patterns of rainfall and increased the frequency of powerful cataclysms such as cloudbursts and tsunamis. On the positive side, awareness of the importance of water resources is now widespread, and a range of traditional and modern technologies is being employed to address the challenges posed. In India, the government is giving the highest priority to the revival of groundwater tables through watershed management, the conservation of rainfall, and the development of low-cost sanitation. It is also taking tough measures to prevent untreated industrial effluents from contaminating streams, rivers and underground aquifers.

While water, soil and air pollution challenges are still formidable in Europe, progress has been made on many fronts. Acid rain is well under control, and river water...
quality, much better now than thirty years ago, shows that concerted action is possible without a negative impact on economic growth. With this experience, the EU has joined hands with the Government of India, state governments and committed NGOs with deep knowledge of local problems but also of traditionally sustainable local practices to assist in the development of water policy and the promotion of field level projects which could later be applied to similar situations. This is happening across the country and in very different geographical zones.

**Groundwater**

Groundwater supplies 60% of the water for irrigation in India. Moreover, 85% of rural water supply comes from groundwater. Accordingly, poverty reduction, rural development and sustainable food production in India depend upon the long-term availability of groundwater in sufficient quantity and quality. Efficient groundwater resource management is thus of high priority in India. Groundwater policy was therefore the subject of an international workshop held in New Delhi on 14 and 15 September organised jointly by the EU and by India’s Hydrology Project, funded by the World Bank.

Despite differences of geography, the challenges are common to India and the European Union: diverse natural conditions, groundwater contamination from industry and agriculture, water scarcity and complex political, legal and institutional frameworks at various levels within one nation/Union with many (Member) States. These similarities make the sharing of experiences relevant and warrant the continuation of an EU-India dialogue to exchange working solutions.

The EU promotes integrated water management through its Water Framework Directive, umbrella legislation under which river basin plans – looking at diverse water needs along the course of a river - are prepared. The implementation of these plans is monitored, and they are updated according to ground realities and changing conditions. Members of the advisory group on groundwater which formulated the EU Groundwater Directive emphasised the need for compatibility with related legislation in other sectors such as pollution control, agriculture and water supply.

For India, the need to educate and sensitize citizens and stakeholders on groundwater protection as an essential precursor to making regulation effective emerged as a common theme. Participants agreed that community-based groundwater management and monitoring of wells should be scaled up, taking local geography and socio-economic factors into account.

They also wanted the existing model water bill to be made into an integrated water framework law taking in relevant parts of the European Union Water Framework Directive approach. Options for improvements in India’s groundwater sector have been discussed in a newly published document titled Groundwater Protection: Policy and practice in the EU and India, which is available on the project website - APSEnvironment.in.

**State Partnership**

Water is a state-level responsibility in India; and, in some of the relatively arid states, water scarcity is one of the major challenges to economic and social development. The EU is partnering with the Government of Rajasthan in developing and implementing state-wide water sector reforms leading to sustainable and integrated water resources management.

Working with the EU, the Government of Rajasthan has produced a water sector policy and action plan which has been adopted by the State.

![Johad to conserve water in Rajasthan](image)

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**A roadmap for the Pamba river**

Water resources development is also the subject of an innovative exercise in Kerala. The Pamba is a small river; and it is special because of the Sabarimala pilgrimage site upstream which hosts more than 1.5 million pilgrims per year as well as the Vembanad lake downstream, an important attraction for tourists. Moreover, the local people depend on the Pamba for drinking water and irrigation, which is increasingly threatened by pollution from Sabarimala, the municipal waste contaminations from towns, and from the pesticides used in agriculture. At the request of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the EU-India Action Plan Support Facility-Environment (APSF) has assisted the government of the state of Kerala to create a road map for the management of the Pamba river. This experience will be used to develop a ‘replicable model’
for other river basins. River basin planning is designed to overcome the present fragmented approach in many rivers, and prevent actions from being determined by narrow local interests. Rather, action is to be taken in an integrated way to ensure the proper flow and quality of water. EU experts have applied their experience in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) elsewhere in the world in their assistance to the newly created Pamba River Basin Authority.

The project organised workshops and training sessions which were then used for participatory planning, problem identification, and training on good water management practices. In the final workshop at the end of October 2010, the roadmap presented by the Authority to the stakeholders, contained the following elements:

- forming and building the capacity of the River Basin Authority
- a communication strategy
- enforcement/ adjustment of the existing legal framework
- information systems for monitoring and evaluation
- full assessment of the water resources situation
- the IWRM action plan, including an investment plan
- making detailed project proposals

**Preventing salinity, conserving rainwater and improving drinking water supply in coastal Gujarat**

In all of its programmes the approach of the EU is essentially to integrate water-related concerns into livelihood issues to ensure that the most urgent user needs are addressed. This is the objective of the water component of its €25.5 mn. intervention in its SCALE (Sustainable Community-based Approaches to Livelihood Enhancement) project in the arid areas of 4 states – Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. In Gujarat, the focus of this ten-year project which began in 2002 has been on preventing the ingress of salinity and improving the supply of potable water. Owing to the over-extraction of groundwater, 1,125 km of coastline have experienced the intrusion of sea water, with the total affected area increasing each year by 550 sq. km and affecting over 1,500 villages. Combined with low rainfall, this has caused acute scarcity of drinking water and damage to agriculture on which over 85% of the local population depends for its livelihood.

The EU’s SCALE project working together with the state government and the Sir Ratan Tata Trust in Junagadh district has mobilised village communities to recharge surface structures like wells and ponds with fresh water. Over 6,500 roof rain water harvesting structures have been constructed by the main implementing agency, the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, which has also established a resource centre for rainwater harvesting in drought-prone Surendranagar. These efforts have led to an improvement in drinking water availability not only for people but also for their livestock.

**Pilot projects in rural water supply and management**

Promoting integrated water management in rural communities of designated “backward districts” is also the objective of a call for projects titled Water for Good Health and Sustained Livelihood under which 5 projects will be supported over the next 3 years. These projects will be expected to improve water conservation, improve the utilisation of water in agriculture and allied activities, and increase the supply of clean water for drinking and sanitation, with benefits for the nutrition and health of poor communities. Among the possible interventions which could be supported by this initiative are eco-friendly sanitation; natural resource management projects to either conserve water or plan for crops which use water most economically; promotion of social enterprises for water-related services or construction and maintenance of low-cost water technologies; and support to the work of water management bodies linked to panchayats and their offshoots.
The hydrological system of Northern India is based on two main phenomena, the monsoon precipitation in summer and the growth and melt of the snow and ice cover in the Himalayas, also called the Water Tower of Asia. However, climate change is expected to change these phenomena and it will have a profound impact on snow cover, glaciers and its related hydrology, water resources and the agricultural economy on the Indian peninsula.

The principal aim of the project is to assess the impact of Himalayan glaciers retreat and possible changes of the Indian summer monsoon on the spatial and temporal distribution of water resources in Northern India and to provide recommendations for appropriate and efficient response strategies that strengthen the cause for adaptation to hydrological extreme events.

HighNoon will look at alternate climate change scenarios for Himalayan rivers such as the Indus, Brahmaputra and Ganga.

On the 9th and 10th of November, 2010 senior policy makers on both sides, scientists and experts met to assess the research being carried out under these projects and to establish priorities for a joint call for research proposals. The workshop on Water Technology, Research and Innovation Collaboration (WTRIC) held in Bangalore at the Indian Institute of Science witnessed presentations on urban water management, drinking water technologies, water reuse technologies, the sustainable use of water by industry, aquifer recharge, flood protection, sanitation technology, and the management of water in agriculture. Experts recommended further work on the development of equitable and water-conserving sewerage and drainage systems for urban areas; decentralised and cost-effective water monitoring and water treatment; low-cost and low energy-consuming pathogen removal methods for wastewater, water-efficient technologies for irrigation; and the use of advanced policy and institutional frameworks. Specific research projects from these areas are likely to be selected for financial support in 2011. Cooperation in the water sector is therefore likely to continue and intensify over the next few years.
EU News

European External Action Service created

The European External Action Service (EEAS), the newly-created diplomatic service of the European Union, has started work on December 1. The service, headed by Catherine Ashton, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, is drawn from the external relations and other relevant departments of the European Commission and General Secretariat of the European Council as well as from the Diplomatic Services of EU Member States. Pierre Vimont is the Executive Secretary General and David O’Sullivan the Chief Operating Officer of EEAS. Helga Schmid has been appointed Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs and Maciej Popowski the Deputy Secretary General for Inter-institutional Affairs. For details: http://www.eeas.europa.eu/background/index_en.htm

8th Asia Europe (ASEM) Meeting

Security concerns such as terrorism, piracy, armed conflict and disarmament; recovery from the financial crisis and the task of achieving Millennium Development Goals were among key issues discussed at the 8th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM8) held in Brussels on 4-5 October, 2010. A cultural exhibition entitled “The Way to Asia – 2,500 years of Asia-Europe Exchange” was also held.

Identifying the economic crisis, development and climate protection as three common challenges faced by Europe and Asia, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso said “we will continue to provide intellectual input and policy ideas into the ASEM dialogue” and carry forward policy, especially on trade, financial and economic regulation, macroeconomic dialogue, climate protection, energy development, research and innovation, as well as participate fully in all the political dialogues.

While the overarching theme of ASEM8 was “Quality of Life: achieving greater well-being and more dignity for all citizens”, the impact of the current global economic downturn, measures for recovery, as also the need to prevent such crises in future weighed heavily on the meeting agenda. “We have reaffirmed the need for a renewed collective effort to consolidate the economic recovery, still considered fragile,” said European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, who chaired the meeting.

ASEM leaders called for closer Asia-Europe cooperation in preventing and combating natural disasters and highlighted the role of multilateral institutions and the United Nations in addressing such global challenges. The meeting adopted the ASEM Chair’s statement on “Greater well-being and more dignity for all citizens” and the Brussels Declaration on more effective global economic governance.

Australia, New Zealand and Russia, who attended an ASEM Summit for the first time, became ASEM members. Some 16 cooperation initiatives were approved in areas such as food security, forest management, water resources and education.

Since 1996, ASEM has been a platform for dialogue between Europeans and Asians, who together account for around 58% of the world’s population.

EU adopts stricter rules on industrial emissions

In a move expected to reduce premature deaths by 13,000 per year and lead to significant savings, the EU adopted new legislation to bring down industrial emissions from large combustion plants. The Directive strengthens the application of Best Available Techniques (BAT), making BAT Conclusions the reference point in the permitting process. It sets stricter emission limits for the largest fossil fuel firing combustion plants across the EU to ensure they apply BAT. The resulting benefits of emission reductions run to €7.28 billion per year.

The new EU legislation aims to stimulate eco-innovation
and reduce unnecessary burden for operators and requests Member States to actively promote emerging techniques. It seeks to reduce the administrative burden by €32 million per year at the EU level and strongly enhances emission monitoring, reporting and environmental inspections, besides improving public access to information.


EU sets assertive trade policy agenda

The EU laid out its blueprint for a trade policy to help revitalise Europe’s economy.

In its discussion paper “Trade, Growth and World Affairs”, the Commission proposes to: complete its ambitious negotiating agenda at the WTO and with major trading partners such as India; deepen trade relations with other strategic partners such as the US, China, Russia and Japan, where the main focus will be on tackling non-tariff barriers to trade; help European businesses access global markets by setting up a mechanism to redress the balance between open markets in the EU and more closed markets with EU trading partners; start negotiating comprehensive investment provisions with some of EU’s key trading partners; make sure trade is fair, and rights are properly enforced and ensure trade remains inclusive so that the benefits go to the many, not the few.


Significant progress has been recorded on an ambitious and balanced Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement with India. At the EU-India summit in Brussels on 10 December 2010, the leaders of both sides agreed on the contours of a final package, and reaffirmed the importance of an ambitious and balanced conclusion in the spring of 2011.

EU’s new energy strategy towards 2020

“Energy 2020”, the new European Union energy strategy, defines the energy priorities for the next 10 years and sets the actions to be taken to tackle challenges of saving energy, achieving a market with competitive prizes and secure supplies, boosting technological leadership, and effectively negotiating with EU’s international partners.

Proposals include a focus on energy saving in transport and buildings sectors as also investment incentives and innovative financial instruments to help house owners and local entities to finance renovation and energy saving measures.

Four major projects in key areas for Europe’s competitiveness will be launched, including new technologies for intelligent networks and electricity storage; research on second-generation biofuels; and the ‘smart cities’ partnership to promote energy savings in urban areas.

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EU to reinforce disaster response capability

In the light of increasing occurrence of natural disasters, the EU is set to reinforce its response system by creating a European Emergency Response Capacity, based on Member States’ assets, and a European Emergency Response Centre.

The new response system will make use of Member States’ emergency assets on standby for EU operations and pre-agreed contingency plans. It will be created by merging the humanitarian aid (ECHO) and civil protection (MIC) crisis rooms into a genuine 24/7 response centre that will watch, alert and respond as well as be responsible for the coordination of EU civilian disaster response.

For disaster response outside the EU, the new response system will collect information on all available European assistance and work in coherence with the United Nations system and affected country.

With the aim of presenting the European face of research cooperation with key international partners, the European Union and its Member States have launched a new European Partnership for International Science and Technology Cooperation based on a long-term vision and a more coordinated approach on international cooperation in research and innovation.

The first initiative focuses on India. To this end, a Conference entitled India-EU and Member States Partnership for a Strategic Roadmap in Research and Innovation took place in New Delhi on 11 and 12 November 2010. The conference was co-chaired by T. Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India, Anneli Pauli, Deputy Director General for Research at the European Commission and Volker Rieke, Chairperson of the European Strategic Forum for International Cooperation in Science and Technology. The conference brought together more than 200 European and Indian research and innovation stakeholders and policy makers.

The European Union and its Member States have had long standing science and technology relations with India. In fact, around 20 EU Member States as well as the European Union have active science and technology cooperation agreements with India. While significant results have accrued from these bilateral programmes, so far they have been parallel and un-coordinated initiatives. Inaugurating the conference, Ambassador Danièle Smadja said that the need of the day is to “supersize” the research & innovation cooperation between Europe and India. “We need our cooperation to be bolder, better and bigger”.

In her intervention, Anneli Pauli said that the real work on this partnership was just starting and that what was needed was a more coherent and structured approach in S&T cooperation and we need to identify the best suited instruments. She said that the European Commission is fully committed to take this strategic process forward and to develop and implement a strategic roadmap for this partnership.

The conference resulted in a joint statement putting forward recommendations and identifying common activities and instruments to be included in a strategic roadmap for research and innovation, to be implemented by the Commission and the Member States with the Indian authorities.

It was generally agreed that EU-Member States-India cooperation would be on the basis of reciprocity and co-funding; that a medium to long-term perspective should be developed in order to focus on priorities with scalable results; that the mobility of researchers between Europe and India should be enhanced; and that innovation should be an important aspect of the development and implementation of the partnership henceforth.
Progress is made at The Climate Change Summit in Cancun

At the outset of the 16th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Connie Hedegaard, EU Commissioner for Climate Action, told delegates that the European Union continued to be ready to commit to “an international, legally binding agreement”. Such an outcome continued to elude the Parties at the Cancun Summit. Nevertheless she expressed satisfaction at the eventual achievement of the conference which produced a series of agreements; and at which the EU spoke with one voice and was widely seen as playing a positive role by building bridges between other groups.

Among the significant elements of the Cancun agreements were:

- the acknowledgement in a formal UN document of the importance of keeping the increase in global temperatures to less than 2°C above pre-industrial temperatures; and the establishment of a process to review this target periodically;
- the anchoring of pledges by both developed and developing countries at the previous summit in Copenhagen (the Copenhagen Accord) in a UN framework;
- the commitment by developed countries to increase climate-related funding to US$ 30 bn. in the short-term (2010-2012) and US$ 100 billion a year by 2020, and the establishment of a Green Climate Fund by the end of 2011 through which a substantial part of this funding will be channelled;
- the agreement on a Cancun Adaptation Framework to support developing countries in identifying adaptation priorities and strengthening their ability to deal with them;
- and the setting up of a mechanism – including the establishment of a Climate Technology Centre and Network - to support the transfer of appropriate technologies

According to Commissioner Hedegaard “The reduction commitments are not enough to keep the temperature increase below two degrees centigrade and there are other outstanding issues, such as the legal form of the agreement and how to provide the long-term finance. But Cancun proved that the multilateral process can deliver results. Without an agreement the UN process would have been in imminent danger. Politicians and the public might very well have lost faith in the process and discarded it – with nothing to put in its place. Now we have a deal. But there is still much work ahead of us.”

Following from this outcome, the EU intends to maintain the momentum of its climate policy by presenting proposals to move beyond its present 20% target for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. It will also pursue bilateral partnerships with key strategic partners such as India, China and South Africa (which will host the next climate summit in December 2011).

Meanwhile the European Union is taking action on its pledges. As the world’s leading aid donor, it has mobilised fast start funding of € 2.2 billion for this year to support developing countries’ efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change. This is part of the EU’s overall commitment to provide € 7.2 billion over the three years 2010 to 2012 to help developing countries adapt to climate change and mitigate their emissions. The EU’s ‘fast track’ funds will be deployed to support developing countries in adaptation; mitigation; reductions in emissions from deforestation and forest degradation technology cooperation and capacity-building including for Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and design of mitigation measures. The finance will enable developing countries to protect against severe weather events; to grow and develop on a sustainable low carbon path; to protect forests while also supporting economic development; and to prepare for the effective and efficient implementation of a new climate regime and scaled-up financial flows in the longer term.

Most of these funds are provided through Member State budgets. All 27 Member States and the European Commission are contributing to this funding. The EU will report annually on the implementation of this fast start finance commitments. In addition, many of the EU Member States and European Commission have publicised detailed information of their ongoing initiatives through the Dutch-initiated faststartfinance.org website.

European Union, the world’s leading aid donor, informed the Summit that it has mobilised fast start funding of € 2.2 billion for this year to support developing countries’ efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change.
The growth in global electrical and electronic equipment production and consumption has been exponential in the last two decades, fuelled by rapid changes in equipment features and capabilities, product obsolescence, decrease in prices and the growth in Internet use. This has created a large volume of electrical and electronic waste, or e-waste.

E-waste mainly comprises of waste from equipments such as computers, mobile phones, television, photocopiers, DVD players, washing machines, refrigerators and other household consumer durables. E-waste is growing almost three times the rate of municipal waste globally. It now makes up five percent of all municipal solid waste worldwide. The rapid growth and increased globalised trade of this complex and toxic waste poses a serious challenge in its management and causes environmental concerns both in developed and developing countries.

The 4th EU-India Environment Forum held recently in New Delhi, organized in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and including NGOs, experts and industry among the participants, took e-waste as its theme. E-waste was also the theme of an EU-India workshop in spring 2010, leading to the publication of a report titled Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment, the EU and India: Sharing Best Practices.

Despite the EU’s 10 years of experience in developing e-waste policy, only about one-third of e-waste in Europe is reported as separately collected and appropriately treated. Ambassador Danièle Smadja underlined the importance of governments themselves setting the example for green procurement and therefore contributing to reducing e-waste.

Rajiv Gauba, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, stressed the importance of the informal sector in e-waste management in India. Moreover, global e-waste trade increases the burden for developing countries. Waste has a considerable economic value in India but at present recycling happens in an uncontrolled manner which presents risks for workers and the environment. New rules will be adopted by the Government of India by the end of the year.

According to Timo Makela, Director for International Affairs, DG Environment, in the European Commission, the EU needed to change its state of mind and consider waste as a valuable material. The e-waste policy adopted by the EU in 2003 had been a step forward in setting the framework but, in retrospect, not sufficiently ambitious. A new, more targeted directive is under preparation to tackle the e-waste problem effectively. The EU’s vision is to become more resource efficient by 2020, with positive consequences for both the environment and the economy.

Both partners are preparing new policies to manage e-waste in an efficient and environmentally friendly manner.
Three Indian scribes were among 17 winners of the prestigious Lorenzo Natali Prizes this year for outstanding journalism, covering issues of development, human rights and democracy. Over 1100 journalists submitted their work to compete; and an independent jury, led by Kai Niklasch, a senior journalist for the German public television broadcaster ZDF, selected the winners. The competition, an integral part of EU development policy for almost 20 years, is organised by the European Commission in association with Reporters without Borders and World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers. It is named after Lorenzo Natali (1922-1990) who was a European Commissioner and Vice President of the Commission between 1976 and 1989, with special responsibility for cooperation and development between 1985 and 1989.

Nicaraguan journalist Yader Luna won the Lorenzo Natali Grand Prize for journalism for his article “Palabra de Mujer” describing the everyday life of a group of women in central Nicaragua’s Bocana de Paiwais community, who founded a small radio station to denounce men who mistreat women.

From the Asia region, the first prize was won by Shyamlal Yadav for his article “Streams of Filth” in India Today on the pollution of Indian rivers. Chitrangada Choudhury won second prize for her article “The War Within” on the Naxal insurgency, published in The Hindustan Times. Nilanjana Bhowmick won third prize for her article in Time.com on the right to education for children, titled “School Is a Right, but Will Indian Girls Be Able to Go?”

Subjects covered by other Lorenzo Natali Award 2010 winners include child sacrifices in the Ivory Coast; forced marriages of young girls in Egypt; a cocoa market scandal in Ivory Coast; Brazilian ammunition exports; the struggle to survive of indigenous migrants in Mexico; the blood-bath at a football stadium in Guinea; and the one child policy and child abduction in China.

“Good governance, human rights, and freedom of media are recognised as key conditions for social and economic development of countries.”

Andris Piebalgs

with many eye-opening stories,” said Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development, who presented the prizes in Brussels on 6 December 2010.
A Renewable Energy Conference Highlights Potential for EU India Collaboration

India has set itself ambitious targets for more than quadrupling its electricity supply by 2030 to support its further economic development. Renewable energy will play a major role in securing this as the exploitation of the coal reserves in India will reach its peak around 2030 and provide a maximum of 60-65% of the supply. Currently, the share of renewable energy in India’s commercial energy production is around 7% (excluding big hydropower plants), including 12 giga watt installed capacity in on-shore wind power.

The objective of a recent workshop at the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference (DIREC) on Matching EU Policy and Practical Experience with India’s Potential was to share European policy, projects and experience to date in the promotion of renewable energy, as well as to explore opportunities for further EU-India cooperation in this area at both policy and business levels. All of this has the final aim of contributing to unleash India’s enormous potential as a developer and user of clean forms of energy.

The high-level speakers at the workshop included Ministers from Finland, Secretary of Spain, Portugal, the Czech Republic, a representative from the European Renewable Energy Council. Dr. R.K. Pachauri from TERI, Ambassador Smadja of the EU Delegation to India and Ambassador Deboutte of Belgium. The event was well attended and the Member State speakers shared many examples and experiences in their countries, complemented by information from other speakers on projects in other Member States and policy and programmes at the EU level.

All speakers stressed that governments should set the framework and give incentives including for R&D but that, for implementation on the ground, the role of business would be crucial.

EU - India Calendar of Events

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<td>6-12 January 2011</td>
<td>Presentation by Celine Dondeynaz, Joint Research Centre, European Commission, at the International Conference on Environmental Science and Development 2011</td>
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<td>Conference on India and Central Europe in Evolving Global Context, organized by EU-India Study Centre, Warsaw</td>
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<td>2 February 2011</td>
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