Leading Think Tanks Discuss Next Steps for EU-India Strategic Partnership

EU-India Think Tanks Network Launched

New Delhi 03 November 2015.

The Delegation of the European Union to India facilitated the launch of the 'EU-India Think Tanks Initiative' bringing together leading think tanks from India and the European Union to promote better understanding and stimulate joint research to provide analytical inputs to the EU-India strategic partnership.

Building on the orientation meetings held in New Delhi and Brussels in May and June 2015, an EU-India Think Tank Conference brought together invited European and Indian experts in an exchange of views on priorities for future EU-India cooperation, and methodologies for potential future cooperation.

The conference titled *"EU and India: closer partners in global governance*?" analysed the changing domestic and international context, key lessons learnt and the best examples of successful cooperation in the past two decades of EU-India relations, and areas where the EU can add value to India's bilateral cooperation with Member States.

H.E. Tomasz Kozlowski, EU Ambassador-Designate to India and Bhutan, said, "India is an important partner for the European Union, however, the EU-India Strategic Partnership has not utilized its full potential yet. Calling for "shared values to be transformed into shared interests", he identified a broad number of sectors for enhanced cooperation ranging from trade and investments through cooperation in climate change, urbanisation, digital agenda, and renewable energy to political cooperation on global and regional issues. He underlined that EU-India cooperation should be based on each other's "priorities, expectations and capabilities."

Leading Indian and European think tanks and institutions that participated in the conference included the EU-Asia Centre, Chatham House, Gateway House India, Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development, Asia Centre, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, National Maritime Foundation, Clingendael, Vivekananda International Foundation, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Institute of Social Sciences, Centre for European Policy Studies, Observer Research Foundation, German Institute of Global and Area Studies, European Policy Centre, Polish Institute of International Affairs, Real Instituto Elcano, and Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).

About the European Union (EU):

The EU, which consists of 28 countries, has the world's largest economy and its third largest population, after China and India. Though richly diverse, the countries that make up the EU (its 'Member States') are all committed to the same basic values: peace, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. They have set up common institutions so that decisions on matters of joint interest can be made democratically at European level. By creating a frontier-free single market and a single currency (the euro) which has been adopted by 19 Member States, the EU has given a significant boost to trade and employment. It is also at the forefront of policies on sustainability.

EU-India relations

Over 50 years the EU and India have worked together to reduce poverty, prevent disasters, expand trade, and promote joint research in energy, health, agriculture and many other fields of mutual interest. More information at: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india

For press enquiries:

Poonam Kapila-Poonam.kapila@eeas.europa.eu 9910822339