



EU Ambassador presents Letters of Credence to the President of India



New Delhi, 13 November 2015: H.E. Tomasz Kozłowski presented his Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to India to the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, at an official ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan today.

On this occasion **Ambassador** Kozłowski said, "It is an honour for me to represent the European Union in India, the largest democracy in the world and one of the EU's strategic partners." The two sides enjoy strong trade and investment relations and have robust linkages in the area of political & security matters, environment, science & technology, education and culture. The EU is collaborating with India in several flagship initiatives such as Smart Cities, Clean Ganga, renewable energy and ICT. "My priority over the next years will be to explore with the Indian Government how we could further enhance our cooperation & partnership based on common values and interests, and each other priorities and expectations," said the Ambassador.

Mr. Kozłowski stressed that the EU and India have a new role to play in a world that is now quite different from what might have been imagined just a few decades ago. "We must work together to reduce global tensions; invest to create jobs and growth; and use the power of finance and innovation to make development more sustainable. My objective over the next years will be to promote and implement the EU's strategic partnership with India, to make it more result-oriented and beneficial to both sides," he added further.

Prior to arriving in India, he served as the Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Korea (2011 - 2015).

Since 2004, he has been working for the European Union in Brussels as Head for Asia at the Office of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and later as Principal Adviser for Asia and Latin America at the European Commission.

Before joining the EU, he was a member of the Polish Diplomatic Service. He was posted at the Polish Embassies in Indonesia and Malaysia. He served as Ambassador of Poland to Pakistan (concurrently accredited to Afghanistan) in 2001 – 2003 and as Director General for Asia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw in 2003 – 2004.

He also worked for the United Nations in Cambodia (1993) and South Africa (1994).

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, health, agriculture and many other fields of mutual interest.

The European Union and the Republic of India benefit from a longstanding relationship going back to the early 1960s. The Joint Political Statement of 1993 and the 1994 Co-operation Agreement, which is the current legislative framework for cooperation, opened the door to a broad political dialogue, which has evolved through annual Summits, regular ministerial and senior-officials meetings as well as expert gatherings.

In 2004 India became one of the EU's strategic partners. Since 2005, a Joint Action Plan, revised in 2008, is helping to realize the full potential of this partnership in key areas of interest for India and the EU. Current efforts are centred on: developing cooperation in the security field; migration and mobility issues; ongoing negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement; implementation of the Joint Work Programme on Energy, Clean Development and Climate Change adopted at the 2008 Summit and reaffirmed by a Joint Declaration for Enhanced Cooperation on Energy in 2012; and cooperation in scientific research and innovation (Joint Declaration adopted by the 2012 Summit).

The European Union is India's largest trading partner accounting for nearly €100 billion in trade in goods and services in 2014. Bilateral trade has more than doubled in the last decade and the EU remains the most important export destination of Indian exports of both goods and services. Furthermore, as well as being the main destination for Indian outward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the EU is also India's most important source of inward FDI after Mauritius, providing a quarter of all inward flows since 2000, resulting in a total stock of some €34 billion.

More information at: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india>