

India-EU Summit Held in New Delhi

The tenth India - EU Summit calls for rapid conclusion of the Doha Round and the early conclusion of a balanced but ambitious bilateral trade and investment agreement.

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President Barroso and Prime Minister Reinfeldt at Rajghat

The tenth India - EU Summit was held in New Delhi on the 6th of November. The European Union was represented by Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt, Prime Minister of Sweden in his capacity as President of the Council of the European Union, and Mr Jose Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission. India was represented by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The then European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Ms Benita Ferrero-Waldner and the then European Commissioner for Trade, Baroness Catherine Ashton were also in attendance, together with Foreign Minister Carl Bildt and Trade Minister Ewa Björling representing the Swedish Presidency.

The Summit focussed on global and regional issues, as well as the strategic dimension of the bilateral relationship between the two sides. Global issues which figured strongly were the economic recovery and reform of global

financial systems and national regulations to prevent the recurrence of the crisis of 2008; the need to ensure an ambitious and equitable climate change agreement in Copenhagen; the need to conclude the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations; urgent action against food scarcity and rural poverty; and international security and disarmament.

Leaders called for the reform of international financial regulations and institutions in line with their commitments to decisions at the G20 summits at London and Pittsburgh

They called for the conclusion of an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced agreement on multilateral trade in 2010.

Leaders agreed that both mitigation and adaptation actions were equally important in addressing climate change, and recognised that developing countries would require technological and financial support from developed countries in implementing national plans. Given the importance of the energy sector in relation to supporting the fight against climate change they welcomed the launch of the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Co-operation in May 2009 at the G8+5 meeting in Rome, as well as the establishment of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

Bilateral Relations

The EU and India renewed their commitment to the Strategic Partnership between the two sides launched in 2004 and to the Joint Action Plan which was agreed the following year and reviewed at the Marseille Summit in 2008. Among the major objectives agreed at this tenth summit were the intensification of the dialogue on counter terrorism, peace-keeping, peace-building and post-conflict assistance. The desire to conclude a Broad-Based Trade and



Summit-related events concluded with an evening of cultural performances by Indian and European artistes, followed by a reception hosted by the EU Ambassador during which President Barroso met members of civil society, the corporate sector and the diplomatic corps in New Delhi.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh confirmed India's commitment to trade liberalisation

Investment Agreement which is both ambitious and balanced was reiterated. Speaking on this subject, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh confirmed India's commitment to trade liberalisation, in pursuit of which India had already concluded Free Trade Agreements with the ASEAN and Korea. Minister for Trade and Industry Anand Sharma was of the view that EU India trade could go up from the present level of around €77 billion to €135 billion (US\$ 200 billion) in four years, mainly due to the enormous potential of services. European Trade Commissioner at the time of the Summit, Baroness Ashton supported the commitment to an agreement by the time of the 2010 Summit and emphasised the need to reach an ambitious agreement in order for both sides to benefit from the commercial opportunities created by improved market access.

Another field where significant progress was made was in the area of climate change and energy where both sides have taken significant steps in the last twelve months. Under their bilateral initiatives they agreed to an early implementation of the Joint Work Programme on Energy, Clean Development and Climate Change, agreed at the Marseille Summit, especially in the areas of solar energy, development of clean coal technology and increase in energy efficiency.

An agreement on fusion energy research was signed at the summit. A second agreement on research in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is under discussion. It was also announced that solar energy projects supported jointly by the EU's Seventh Framework Programme on Research and the Government of India will be finalised very shortly. ■



Fusion Research: Europe and India Sign Cooperation Agreement : ITER Goes On

The European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and the Indian Government signed a cooperation agreement in the field of fusion energy research on the 6th of November, 2009.

The agreement was signed at the India-EU Summit in New Delhi by Mrs. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy at the time of the Summit, and Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).

Fusion is the technology which aims to reproduce the physical reaction that occurs in the sun and stars, when the nuclei of hydrogen atoms combine to form helium and release energy. The European Union and India are already partners in the construction of ITER, the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor.

ITER is a large-scale scientific experiment that aims to demonstrate that it is possible to produce commercial energy from fusion. The scientific goal of the project is to deliver ten times the power it consumes. From 50 MW of input power, the ITER machine is designed to produce 500 MW of fusion power - the first of all fusion experiments to produce net energy. During its operational lifetime, ITER will test key technologies necessary for the next step: the demonstration fusion power plant that will capture fusion energy for commercial use. Fusion is an attractive source of energy as it can provide a large-scale energy source with basic fuels which are abundant and available everywhere; it has a very low global impact on the environment as no green house gases are emitted; the day-to-day-operation of a fusion power station would not require the transport of radio-active materials; fusion power stations would be inherently safe as there would be no possibility of "meltdown" or "runaway reactions" and it is very green as there will be no long-lasting radioactive waste to create a burden on future generations. The scale and scope of the ITER project rank it among the most ambitious science endeavours of our time. The



Mrs. Benita Ferrero-Waldner and Dr. Anil Kakodkar sign the co-operation agreement on fusion research

ITER tokamak will weigh about 23,000 tonnes, or three times the weight of the Eiffel tower. In the ITER Tokamak, temperatures will reach 150 million °C - or ten times the temperature at the core of our Sun. The tokamak building, which will be the tallest structure on the ITER site will be about 19 stories or 57 metres high, with a further 5 stories underground. In comparison, the India Gate is 42 metres high.

The Agreement will further promote and give more visibility to the bilateral co-operation in this field, and complement the joint activities already established in the multilateral framework of ITER, to which both sides are fully committed. Euratom and India will establish a fast track for the exchange of both information on research issues and scientists in research projects. India has already ongoing collaborations with several European national research centres on fusion. Indian scientists will now join the major fusion experiments of Euratom. The partners will exploit their knowledge in the field of magnetic fusion energy technology, plasma theory and applied plasma physics. India has strong expertise in plasma and superconductors, and has been operating its own experimental fusion reactors for some years. ■

ITER is a large-scale scientific experiment that aims to demonstrate that it is possible to produce commercial energy from fusion



Enormous potential was also identified in the area of skills development where India is faced with the challenge of absorbing 20 million people each year into the work force

India-EU Business Summit: Industry Leaders ask for Trade and Investment Liberalisation

In keeping with past practice, the tenth India-EU Business Summit was held in parallel with the political summit on the 6th of November.

Among the many speakers from industry were Rajan Mittal of Bharti, Signhild Arnegard-Hansen of the Confederation of Swedish Industry, Baba Kalyani of Bharat Forge, Tom Johnstone of SKF, Philippe de Buck of BusinessEurope, Pierre Simon of Eurochambres, Subodh Bhargava of Tata Telecommunications, Suneet Maheshwari of L&T Infrastructure Finance, Ingrid Peterssons of Astra Zeneca and Mark Runacres of Sheffield Haworth. The keynote address at the plenary was offered by Ajay Shankar, Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India.

Despite the economic and financial crisis which has dominated the world economy in recent

months, captains of industry on both sides argued for a reduction of barriers to trade and investment. Among the many interesting points made were those relating to the setting up of a European business in India or an Indian business in Europe. European companies like SKF, for example, are growing in India by setting up new manufacturing units even as the economic crisis has caused markets to fall worldwide. On the other hand, an Indian company like Bharat Forge grew by acquiring facilities in Europe in proximity to their main markets for auto components. In Europe – observed the CEO – an Indian company must manage the European way, just as in India a European company must understand how Indian markets work and how





best to motivate their Indian employees. Several speakers made the point that the proposed Broad-based Agreement on Trade and Investment between the EU and India would be beneficial to both sides.

The plenary session of the Business Summit was followed by parallel sessions on Infrastructure and Skills Development. The study report prepared for the Summit summarised the enormous opportunities in the infrastructure sector. According to the Planning Commission of the Government of India the total investment required between 2007 and 2012 was of the order of € 333 billion at 2006-07 prices. Opportunities for the EU to invest in areas such as roads and bridges, railways, inland waterways, conventional power, renewable energy, gas pipelines, nuclear energy, the construction of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and tourism-related infrastructure were significant.

Enormous potential was also identified in the area of skills development where India is faced with the challenge of absorbing 20 million people each year into the work force, and has set for itself the target of 1600 new industrial training institutes and polytechnics, 10,000 new vocational schools and 50,000 skill development centres by 2025. All of these require massive investments in the private sector. Several Indian speakers pointed out that the EU had well-established technologies and institutional arrangements and would be

well-placed to participate in this programme. Curriculum for skill development, training for trainers, certification and accreditation schemes for training centres and agencies and the skill-related tools, teaching aids, implements and machines which learners would expect to find in industry would all be in demand from advanced industrial societies such as the European Union.

A CEO Roundtable session focussed on the ongoing negotiations for a Trade and Investment Agreement. While European participants wanted all industrial sectors to be included, they also asked for market access issues in the insurance, retail and legal services sectors to be taken up. Government procurement should also be part of an eventual deal. On the Indian side non-trade barriers and restrictions on the movement of personnel were the major interests.

The Business Summit concluded with a Joint Press Conference addressed by Baroness Ashton, European Trade Commissioner at the time of the Summit, Trade Minister Ewa Björling of Sweden, and Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma of India. Each of them individually emphasized the importance of the EU-India relationship and expressed the determination to keep the strategic perspective paramount in dealing with specific issues in trade and investment between the two sides. ■



The Commission's autumn forecast projects that the EU economy will emerge from recession in the second half of this year, growing by ¾ % in 2010 and around 1½ % in 2011

Third Annual EU-India Macroeconomic Dialogue: Towards Better Understanding and Coordination

The EU and India held their annual macroeconomic dialogue in New Delhi on 30 October, ahead of the G20 Finance ministers' meeting in Scotland and the India-EU Summit in Delhi.

The Indian delegation was led by Mr Ashok Chawla, Finance Secretary, and the EU by Mr. Marco Buti, Director General for Economic and Financial Affairs in the European Commission. While the two previous meetings had focused on sustainable growth prospects in India, this year's dialogue was dominated by the worst international economic and financial crisis since the Great Depression. Beyond its direct effects on both economies, the pace with which the crisis developed underlined the extent to which all economies have now become interrelated and demonstrated the importance of economic policy coordination.

The hot topics of this year's dialogue were the fall-out from the financial crisis on India, and the policy measures undertaken and reforms initiated in various sectors. Notably, due to measures

taken to spur recovery, the fiscal situation has deteriorated, raising issues for medium-term fiscal sustainability in Europe as well as India.

"Exit" strategies were therefore at the centre of discussions. The dialogue showed that India has weathered the crisis remarkably well. Although its economy was hit via trade, equity and capital flows, the policy

response has been vigorous and effective. Of course, challenges remain: the crisis led both to reduced revenues and increased expenditure, leading to higher deficits: the central government

deficit is forecast at around 6½ - 7% of GDP in FY 2009-10 and the general government deficit at 10½ - 11 %. Looking forward, revenue growth is expected to lead the fiscal consolidation process, although, in the medium term, India is looking to improve the tax to GDP ratio, and moderate expenditure.

On the EU side, the Commission's autumn forecast projects that the EU economy will emerge from recession in the second half of this year, growing by ¾ % in 2010 and around 1½ % in 2011. Nevertheless, a number of factors are set to restrain private demand and thus, the strength of the recovery. In particular, labour-market conditions will remain weak, with the unemployment rate projected to reach 10¼% in the EU. The public deficit is also expected to rise, to 7½% of GDP in 2010, before falling slightly in the following year.

On the monetary side, inflation pressures are resurfacing India, due to increased food prices, leading the Reserve Bank of India to start withdrawing its monetary stimulus, in order to anchor inflationary expectations. In addition, the resurgence of capital inflows is a concern for policy makers: the Rupee has already appreciated 8% against the Dollar since April this year. Going forward, it will be important to increase the absorptive capacity of the economy for the use of such capital; but this is a medium term challenge that will take time.

The next edition of the macroeconomic dialogue will take place in 2010 in Brussels. Given the importance of the issue of regulation and supervision of financial services took during the crisis, it was agreed to extend its reach to this area. ■



Ashok Chawla and Marco Buti at the Macroeconomic Dialogue in New Delhi

The EU and India Discuss Global Challenges Before the Summit

The India-EU Forum on Effective Multilateralism was held in New Delhi during a two-day conference on the 8th and 9th of October. A joint endeavour of the India Council of World Affairs (ICWA) – India's oldest think tank, the EU Institute of Security Studies (EUISS) – a Paris-based agency of the EU – and the European Commission, this unique Forum, marked the beginning of a new dimension in the India-EU relationship.

Held only a few weeks ahead of the 10th India-EU Summit of 6 November in New Delhi, it provided an excellent opportunity for both sides to reflect on core global issues such as climate change, the fight against terrorism, reform of global governance as well as peace-keeping and peace-building. It was an ideal platform for a fruitful exchange of ideas on shared concerns and will prove to be an additional instrument to promote and enhance the EU-India strategic partnership. Ambassador Sudhir Devare of the ICWA, Alvaro de Vasconcelos, Director of the EUISS and Head of the European Union Delegation to India, Ambassador Danièle Smadja in their welcoming remarks all stressed the importance of this initiative and the need for the EU and India to continue to promote such exchanges in an increasingly multi-polar and interdependent world.

India's Minister of State for External Affairs Mrs. Preneet Kaur in her keynote address underlined the importance of encouraging greater interaction between the civil societies of India and the EU so as to ensure effective multilateralism by creating mutual understanding of key global challenges. Mr. Gilles de Kerchove, the EU's Counter Terrorism Coordinator, participated in the panel on Counter terrorism chaired by the Swedish Presidency. He advised pragmatism as the guiding principle of the India-EU relationship in this field and proposed concrete areas where counter terrorism cooperation could be enhanced, in particular within the UN framework.

The interesting mix of Indian and European

experts, academics, researchers from think tanks and practitioners from national governments and multilateral institutions brought forward ideas and analyses, reflecting a range of realistic, idealistic, conservative and reformist views. As part of the Forum, the experts were also received by Secretary (Europe West) Vivek Katju at Hyderabad House and called on Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao, both key interlocutors for the EU in India.

Among recommendations which figured prominently was the necessity to build a viable framework for global governance; the need for international institutions to be reformed in order to recognise the shifting balance of power and enable them to effectively and legitimately tackle short- and long-term challenges, from humanitarian crises and poverty reduction to peace-building and climate change. Deemed a success by both sides, this Forum gave new momentum to the existing India-EU Dialogue. Scheduled to take place yearly, ahead of the Summits, it will undoubtedly play a constructive role and should – beyond providing new synergies between civil society and decision-makers – give welcome impetus to India-EU cooperation both bilaterally and at the multilateral level.

The speech of the Head of Delegation, Ambassador Danièle Smadja is available on the website of the European Union Delegation to India (www.delind.ec.europa.eu;) and the full report of the Forum will be available on the website of the EUISS (www.iss.europa.eu). ■



Ambassador Devare and Minister of State Mrs. Preneet Kaur

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EU-India Discussion on Biometrics and Data Protection

A high level meeting promoted by the European Union funded project RISE was held in New Delhi last September.



On the 24th and 25th of September 2009, the EU funded initiative RISE (Rising pan-European and International Awareness on Biometrics and Security Ethics) organized a high level event in New Delhi which focused on commonalities and differences between the European Union and India regarding the vital policy issues of security, data protection and privacy.

This meeting was hosted by the Data Security Council of India and provided an excellent opportunity for the RISE partners, EU and US agencies, and selected Asian stakeholders to discuss issues related to data protection and privacy in India. The conference

was attended by Mr. Sachin Pilot, Minister of State, Ministry of Communications & IT, and saw high-level participation from delegates of leading IT/BPO companies, biometrics and security product vendors, Supreme Court officials, senior officers of the Delhi Police, the Income Tax Department and the Department of Information Technology of the Indian government. EU institutions were represented by the EU Delegation in India and the European Data Protection Supervisor.

India has been one of the best performers in the world economy in recent years and Business Process Outsourcing has undoubtedly

contributed to this rapid development. In line with the growth of this market, great concerns have been raised on the security and data protection of the transnational flows to outsourcing companies. External users have put the Indian government under increasing pressure to implement regulations according to international data protection standards, for the safeguard of privacy and creation of confidence among foreign investors.

BPO outsourcing however is not the only field affected by data protection issues in India. News concerning the Indian government's plan to provide each citizen with a biometric-based National Identification Card (UID project) has captured the world's attention. Biometric identity cards will provide an identity to millions of people who do not possess any proof of existence and is expected to help in fighting terrorism and criminality. But the huge online database that will retain citizens' personal information may represent a threat for privacy and data protection.

The RISE project was officially launched in March 2009 within the scope of the European Seventh Framework Programme (7FP), Science in Society theme. Its mission is to create an internationally recognized ethical framework to be used while planning and managing security policies, notably biometrics. The RISE consortium brings together 9 European and non-European partners, located in 8 different countries (5 EU Member States, US, China and India). Partners include 3 universities, 2 private research centres, 2 stakeholder associations, 1 public research institution and 1 consultancy. For further information on the project and next meetings, please visit the RISE website www.riseproject.eu. ■

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EU-India S&T Cooperation Days



To bolster the already strong and vibrant cooperation in science and technology between the European Union and India, three projects funded under the European Union's Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7) and the European Business and Technology Centre (EBTC) organized the EU-India S&T Cooperation Days (visit www.euindiacoop.org) in Food, Agriculture, Fisheries, Biotechnologies and Health Research in New Delhi from 4 to 6 November 2009. These projects are i) European Union and India Enhanced Cooperation Framework for Improved Bilateral Dialogue in the Field of Science and Technology (EUI NEC) (www.euinec.org); ii) the Initiative for the Development and Integration of Indian and European Research (New INDIGO) (www.newindigo.eu); and iii) Creating a CIRCLE by extending the BIO NCP network to Third Countries (BIO CIRCLE) (www.biocircle-project.eu). The event was hosted by the Jawaharlal Nehru University and brought together more than 50 participants from Europe and more than 150 from India.

A large range of funding opportunities and political initiatives to enhance cooperation were presented to the participants. European and Indian stakeholders presented their research, project ideas and organizations and had face-to-face meetings with potential collaborators.

On the occasion of the Cooperation Days, the European Commission and the Government of India announced two new co-funded research

projects in the area of Food and Nutrition research. These projects will bring together Indian and European research teams in the areas of "Development of functional foods and ingredients" and the "Valorisation of by-products in food processing". Both sides will invest 3 million Euros each (17.5 crores each) on these projects which are expected to be completed in 3 years. The two joint research projects are expected to increase the innovation potential and competitiveness of both the European and Indian food industry, in particular SMEs. Scientific validation for new functional foods will also be provided, hence supporting the European policy on health and nutrition claims.

The first project "Impact of agents with potential use in functional foods on biomarkers for induction of age related diseases" aims at making available foods or food ingredients which could help to prevent cancer, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes type 2, seen as critical health disorders in the world.

The second project "New advances in the integrated management of food processing waste in India and Europe; use of sustainable technologies for the exploitation of by-products into new foods and feeds" will focus on processing of by-products of fruit (citrus, mango, pomegranate) and cereal (wheat and rice bran) which offer new market opportunities. The research will help in developing innovative and industry-relevant approaches for new products with improved nutritional properties. ■

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**EU-India
Co-operation in HIV**

Special emphasis is being given to women who are socially excluded on the basis of caste, ethnicity, gender and other vulnerabilities.

Reducing Transmission of HIV from Mothers to Children

A four-year project to reduce the transmission of HIV from pregnant women to their newborn children in 21 districts in the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan where prevalence and vulnerability are high is being supported by the European Union. It is being implemented by the NGO Christian Aid in partnership with the Tamil Nadu Voluntary Health Association, Arogya Agam, Positive Women's Network (PWN+), and the Society for People's Action in Development (SPAD).

Where pregnant mother to child transmission (PMTCT) services exist, their efficacy has often proved to be limited mainly because of human resource shortages, inadequate training and monitoring, as well as problems of access, acceptability, use and follow-up. The result is that less than 10% (2.1 / 27million) pregnant women in the country were able to access PMTCT

services in 2007. The direct target groups of this project are 10,128 poor, largely illiterate positive women, their children and spouses (4,800 in Tamil Nadu, 4,728 in Karnataka and 600 in Rajasthan). Special emphasis is being given to women who are socially excluded on the basis of caste, ethnicity, gender and other vulnerabilities. 1575 pregnant sex workers are also to be directly targeted by the project, whose major strength derives from the fact that all its 570 volunteers are HIV positive women who are highly committed to the cause of reduction of mother to child transmission. Although the project began less than a year ago, some progress has already been made.

In hundreds of homes across these states, hope is returning to women in potentially tragic situations, and newborn children are being saved from sentence of death. ■



World Aids Day is Commemorated in Orissa

Concern Worldwide India in partnership with the FM radio station, BIG 92.7 FM launched a unique Studio on Hoarding, the first of its kind ever in Eastern India to mark a month-long public campaign titled Socha Nahin to Socho Zara on the occasion of World AIDS Day 2009. A month-long series of events which started from 1 November 2009 reached out to people - especially urban youth including college students and young professionals - around issues related to the stigma and discrimination faced by HIV victims. The purpose was to encourage youth to make informed choices and show compassion to those who were afflicted by the illness.

The Minister for Health and Family Welfare of the Government of Orissa Mr. Prasanna Acharya, gave the first radio talk and inaugurated the studio on 30 November 2009, on the eve of World AIDS Day. BIG 92.7 FM operated a live studio from a hoarding at Master Canteen Square, a prime location in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, from the 30th of November to the 4th of December 2009 to support one-of-a-kind public awareness drive on

Rathna: The Story of a 'Jewel'

Rajappa (name changed), a 28 year old, is a mason by profession. Living in Bitnalli, a village, 25 kms. from Kolar, he has been working in different parts of the district. He lives in his father's house along with his mother and his wife Shivarathna. Lovingly he calls her Rathna his precious stone. Only three months ago, when his wife revealed that she was pregnant, he felt on top of the world. Rajappa had a decent income and was able to manage his life well. He was weaving dreams of becoming the father of a beautiful child until the day he took his wife for the antenatal check up to the district hospital and found out that she was HIV positive while he was negative. He came to the conclusion that she had had illicit relations with other men.



During her journey back from the hospital, Rathna never raised her head to look at her husband. She was asking herself 'How did I become positive?' By the end of the trip she felt that her life's journey was over. At home Rajappa created a ruckus and stormed out; and Rathna's plea that she was 'innocent' was to no avail. She opened a bottle of poison and was about to pour its contents down her throat when her in-laws snatched it away. Reluctantly, Rajappa returned to his wife because he understood that suicide could attract the police.

Kashibabu, an HIV positive man, now providing his volunteer service to the PMTCT programme of SPAD which is supported by the European Commission and Christian Aid, appeared on the scene the day after the incident in Rajappa's house. He spent almost half a day with both of them and counselled them individually and together. He narrated his own story of being HIV positive whereas his wife was HIV negative. He said that nevertheless they were living together and loved each other. He explained to Rajappa that it was not only sexual contact which made an individual HIV positive - there were other modes of transmission too.

Kashibabu's intervention helped Rajappa to realize his mistake. He promised Kashibabu that he would continue to love his wife and look after her like a unique 'rathna' (a jewel). Rathna is now preparing for her delivery. Kashibabu is following up the case regularly. He says: "there are hundreds of cases like this. I feel sad that most of them are not brought to light at all. In all these cases women are victimized and newborn children bear the brunt of it. Being a positive volunteer I am able to do something for the community and I'm very happy about it". ■

HIV throughout the week. Radio Jockeys of BIG 92.7 FM spoke live from the hoarding studio on Responsible Living and HIV prevention education. Many young people gathered at the square to have a glimpse of this unique live studio and take part in the campaign by sharing a message on the radio. The speaker judged to have articulated the best thought of the day was offered a prize. This entire initiative is funded by the European Union and has been supported by various corporate partners – Forum Mart, The World, Share A Cup, Café Coffee Day, ETV, Samvad Kalika, Aaren Initiative, K Campus and Food Box.

Under this campaign, Concern has also organized interactive stalls in different parts of Bhubaneswar

city, organized college events and chat sessions to reach out to youth in support of the cause. "The response to the campaign has been extraordinary" said Dipankar Datta, Country Director, Concern Worldwide India. ■





EU-India Dialogue on Competition Policy

*Discussions
focused on the
functioning of
competition
policy and its
enforcement in
India.*

Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes Looks forward to Policy Convergence Among World's Competition Authorities

The European Commissioner for Competition, Ms Neelie Kroes, visited New Delhi on 16 November 2009. The main objective was to participate in the Conference on "Competition, Public Policy and Common Man" organised by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and the Confederation of Indian Industries.

This conference gathered an impressive number of ministers and high level speakers. Discussions focused on the functioning of competition policy and its enforcement in India.

Commissioner Kroes delivered a key note address sharing her and the European Commission's experience, which was highly appreciated by the audience. Reflecting on lessons from her five years as 'the referee of Europe's Single Market' the Commissioner said that the EU had "set a good example on how to undermine cartellists and how to keep abreast of competition issues in fast-changing technology industries." "Success on these priorities", she said, "has sent a clear message that no company is above the law".

She welcomed the recent appointment of the Commissioners of the CCI and reiterated the European Commission's willingness to engage in constructive dialogue and cooperation with them. She also encouraged the CCI to draw on

the wealth of experience gained by competition enforcement agencies from around the world over the past decades.

Furthermore, a direct interaction with the members of CCI allowed for an additional in-depth exchange of views. So did the meeting with Mr. Salman Khursheed, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Minority Affairs (Independent Charge).

This visit to India was a visible proof of the European Commission's support of the recently established CCI, and a sign of Commissioner Kroes' personal commitment. In terms of the strengthening of links with competition authorities in India and the impetus given to further co-operation, this visit was a clear success. ■



EU - India Calendar of Events

Month	Particulars	Place
1 December 2009	Entry into Force of Lisbon Treaty	
14 December 2009	EU-India Workshop on Innovation and Partnerships	Chennai
17 December 2009	EU-India Workshop on Innovation and Partnerships	New Delhi
17 December 2009	Inauguration of the EU-India Study Centres, Manipal University	Manipal
1 January 2010	Spain takes over the Presidency of the European Union	
11-12 January 2010	EU-India Workshop on Research Infrastructures	New Delhi
20 January 2010	Inauguration of EU-India Study Centres, IIT Madras	Chennai
28 January 2010	Inauguration of EU-India Study Centres, University of Delhi	New Delhi
18-19 February 2010	EU-India Workshop on Health Research	New Delhi
March 2010	EU-India Environment Forum on Ship Dismantling	New Delhi