

**Final event in Delhi of the EU and its Member States
Awareness Raising and information Campaign in India**

India Habitat Center
Silver Oak Hall

Opening speech by Mr. Cravinho

28 September 2012

at 10:00

(10 min)

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

What will be the basis for Europe's and India's future competitiveness? Where will new growth and job creation come from? How will we find solutions to growing societal challenges such as climate change, increasingly scarce energy, water, resources, raw materials, demography, security, health and combating diseases and supplying high-quality, affordable food and water?

As you already know, the answer is research and innovation. And it is the same answer in Europe with the "Europe 2020" strategy and the recently launched "Innovation Union" as it is in India with the "Decade of Innovation" to achieve the challenges of inclusive as well as sustainable and affordable innovation.

But research and innovation are not only a strategic theme of importance for each side independently. Globalisation and internationalisation of research and innovation have made international cooperation a core component of the European and India strategies. International cooperation is not anymore a sort of marginal and soft option. It is essential to the well functioning "knowledge triangle" of research, education and innovation to achieve a knowledge based economy and society.

In a changing world characterised by the accelerating globalisation of research and innovation and the emergence of new scientific and technological powers, such as India, the European Research and Innovation Area is more than ever a cornerstone for a European knowledge society.

On the European side, we need to reduce the dispersion and fragmentation of our efforts vis-à-vis our major partners in the world, and to strengthen Europe's leverage in negotiating level-playing field market access with our major partners worldwide. Such a global level-playing field for research and innovation will only come about if Europe acts as one.

The scale of global challenges that Europe and India are confronted with makes it unlikely that any one of us – in isolation – will be sufficient. The EU and its Member States and India need to work together even more effectively and more intensively than in the past, and build a strategy for global prosperity.

Against this, it seems to me that we have to "supersize" the research & innovation cooperation between Europe and India. We need our cooperation to be bolder, better and bigger:

- **Bolder**, as there is a growing consensus for a much stronger focus on societal challenges, tackled in close cooperation of all players – India, the EU and its Member States, the research community and industry pooling resources at all levels: regional clusters, national, European and global for addressing complex challenges;
- **Better**, as our policy making, at all levels, needs to be more efficient and more effective, and to build bridges across our systems, programmes and policies;
- **Bigger**, which refers to the fact that increased investment in R&D is necessary to deal with the complexity of challenges that cut across S&T disciplines, industry sectors and policy fields and where sufficient critical mass needs to be built.

It is clearer than ever that the EU and its Member States can only achieve their objectives at home by being active and united on the global stage. The backbone for the European response to globalisation is its further deepening to create the wealth that can give practical meaning to core European values of social inclusion and of European and international solidarity.

In this respect it is a big satisfaction for me to see the success of the European awareness raising and information campaign in India which illustrates 3 main points:

(i) European togetherness in action on a scale & scope matching the Indian magnitude.

(ii) Leadership by example and coherence: Europeans do in/with India what they do together in Europe in thousands of collaborative research projects. In other words they "project" their internal European strength onto India to build win-win partnerships.

(iii) Interdependency: Europeans will focus on their programmes and schemes allowing/funding international cooperation with India taking into account the increasing interdependency in research & innovation landscape worldwide

This "road show" throughout India was also very timely considering the EU-India Joint Declaration on Research and Innovation Cooperation signed at the last EU-India Summit in New Delhi in February 2012 towards building an Indo-European Research and Innovation Partnership with (i) larger scale, scope and impact, (ii) focus on common societal challenges, and (iii) enhanced synergies between India, the EU and its Member States.

Shared vision & pathways for the Partnership were highlighted at the meeting that the EU Commissioner and Ministers responsible for research and innovation in the EU Member States had with the Indian Minister for Science and Technology in Brussels in May 2012.

In recent years the response to globalisation has moved to the heart of the EU policy agenda through focussing on three priority areas at both EU and national level:

- **More Research and innovation:** Europe needs the right conditions for research and innovation to flourish – such as attractive careers for researchers, a modern IPR system and interoperable standards.
- **A more dynamic business environment:** SME and entrepreneurship has been put high on the reform agenda. The task now is to fully unlock their growth and jobs potential.
- **Greater employability and investment in people:** Both globalisation and technological change risk increased inequality, opening up the gap between the skilled and the unskilled. The best solution is to help each individual to adapt, by improving the quality and availability of education and training for all ages.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

International cooperation features strongly on the European Union's research and innovation agenda because it makes sense to bring the world's best researchers together, where possible, in order to tackle our common challenges.

In an ever-more inter-connected world, scientific breakthroughs or the innovative applications of new technologies rarely come about by working in isolation.

The current and future EU research and innovation programmes offer European and scientists throughout the world, researchers and innovators many opportunities to work together, to make the discoveries and breakthroughs that will improve our economies and our day to day lives.

So the time is right to step-up our Indo-European cooperation in research and innovation. So, please, find out today more about what

Europe has to offer. Because Europe is backing excellence, Europe is backing innovation, Europe is back in business.