



India – European Union
Joint Declaration on Research and Innovation Cooperation
New Delhi, 10 February 2012

Moving up a gear in our cooperation 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

Considering:

The vibrant and strong cooperation in science and technology between India, the EU and many of its Member States through a rich diversity of ongoing bilateral initiatives, programmes and schemes;

The EU's "Innovation Union" and the Indian "Decade of Innovation" strategies for achieving inclusive, sustainable and affordable innovation, towards finding solutions to growing societal challenges such as climate change, increasingly scarce energy, water, resources, raw materials, demography, security, natural disaster management, sustainable transport and mobility, health and combating diseases and supplying high-quality and affordable food;

The scale and complexity of these challenges which call for increased Indo-European cooperation, pooling and making more effective use of financial and human resources;

The Agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Government of the Republic of India concluded in 2001 and renewed in 2007, and the annual meetings of the joint steering committee which have sustained the momentum of the cooperation and enabled signing of letters of intent for dedicated partnerships in biotechnology and health research;

The EU-India Joint Action Plan adopted in 2005 which includes a significant research and innovation dimension;

The New Delhi Communiqué issued at the first India-EU Ministerial Science Conference in 2007, which recognized that important windows of opportunity existed for a significant increase in the breadth and depth of EU-India S&T cooperation, in particular through co-investment of resources in joint actions;

The successful implementation since 2007 of regular coordinated calls for proposals between the EU and India in the fields of computational materials science, food and nutrition research, solar energy research and water related challenges, with a total budget of M€60 co-funded by India and the EU, as well as the active participation of Indian research organisations in the EU Research Framework Programmes;

The Joint Statement issued at the 2010 Conference on India-EU/Member States Partnership for a Strategic Roadmap in Research & Innovation on the occasion of the successful launch of the India-EU/Member States Pilot Initiative towards more coherent and structured approach in S&T cooperation;

The conclusions of the last EU-India Summit in 2010 where both sides welcomed the new dynamic India-EU and Member States research and innovation partnership for more coordinated cooperation.

In this spirit, India and the European Union have come together to declare their resolve to moving up a gear in their research and innovation cooperation, fully exploiting its potential towards finding solutions to common societal challenges, and mobilising Indian and European stakeholders to define a strategic "Indo-European Research and Innovation Partnership" by the end of 2012. The joint stakeholders' conference and ministerial meeting on 31 May and 1 June 2012 in Brussels will be an important milestone in its preparation. This Partnership will include the following elements:

- Increasing the scale, scope and impact of our cooperation through reinforcing EU-India collaborative research activities, promoting networking and synergies between research organisations and ongoing initiatives in areas of common interest using a variety of instruments on a multiannual basis such as coordinated calls, networking and twinning of projects and programmes;
- Increasing focus on innovation with mobilisation of industrial partners in EU-India cooperation, defining policies and measures to create favourable framework conditions (e.g. standards, regulations, public procurement) for the deployment of innovative products and processes focussing in particular on societal challenges of common interest;
- Streamlining the governance of Indo-European cooperation by facilitating the alignment of funding mechanisms, improving the coherence of cooperation rules and principles on issues such as ownership and access right to results of collaborative research, movement of material and equipment across borders, reciprocal access to facilities, conditions of mobility of researchers, improved (simpler and faster procedures) organisation of interactions with stakeholders, and setting up of regular Senior Official meetings involving India, the EU and its Member States to review the state of play and implementation of cooperation;

- Developing EU-India cooperation to define common objectives and coordinate positions in international fora on global issues such as guidelines on sharing of and access to research infrastructures;
- Reinforcing EU-India research and innovation cooperation as a pivotal part of Europe's and India's overall relationships towards the realisation of their broader objectives.

Done in New Delhi on 10 February, 2012

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION

**Dr. Ashwani Kumar,
Minister of State for Science &
Technology and Earth Sciences and
Planning**

**Mr. Karel de Gucht,
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