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Reformists (ECR) group visited India from 29 October-1 November and met with a number of Ministers, parliamentarians, Indian and European businesses, think tank representatives and other interlocutors. The visit was aimed at further nurturing EU-India parliamentary cooperation and deepening the politicians’ knowledge of India across as many domains as possible, with a view to strengthening the EU-India Strategic Partnership. The delegation was headed by Dr. Syed Kamall.

Stepping up parliament-to-parliament contacts, the delegation met the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Dr. M. Thambi Durai; and Member of the Rajya Sabha and Vice President of the India-EU Friendship Group, Hon. Navaneethankrishnan along with other Indian parliamentarians. During the visit, the group also met with Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation; Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (independent charge) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; Mr. Raj Kumar Singh, Minister of State (independent charge) of the Ministry of Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening the EU-India Strategic Partnership in the areas of trade and investment as well as sectoral cooperation with a view to supporting India’s sustainable modernization process.

In Bangalore, the delegation visited Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and a number of companies. Recently, the European Union and India’s Department of Space had signed a landmark Cooperation Arrangement with the aim to strengthen and stimulate cooperation on Earth observation and mutual access to the data from the European Union’s sentinel series of satellites and from the Indian Earth observation satellites. Research and Innovation are one of the key areas of cooperation identified under the EU-India summit 2017 held in New Delhi.

The European Union and India are natural partners, with shared fundamental values of democracy, diversity, robust trade relations, sector policies, and cultural links. The EU is determined not only to further strengthen the relations with India, but to also step up its cooperation on the world stage and in multilateral fora on global issues such as climate change, trade, security, and counter-terrorism.

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