

Enhancing Cooperation

How India and Europe can take the lead



India and Europe need to work together to restructure global political and economic structures. Both India and the member states of the European Union recognise the vital importance of the rule of law in a world which will grow more dangerous with climate destabilisation. Both India and the European Union face major concerns over environmental security. Both have political systems based on democratic parliamentary accountability and cultural and religious pluralism. Both accept ethical principles of equity and differentiated responsibilities in tackling climate change. Both need to tailor their policies to the needs and aspirations of their electorates. Above all, both need to show that their policies are able to create jobs and long term sustainable economic development.

However strong the agreement at Copenhagen, it will not be enough. Dangerous climate change is happening. To make progress, a few countries, North and South, need to create a fast track and pioneer solutions for the world. India and the EU are in a strong position to show the way with practical action.

The time for enhanced cooperation is now. At a time when economic stimulus to the global economy is required, there is an opportunity to focus much of the stimulus on green, climate friendly action. The private sector has a key role within a framework set by Government. Together, the EU and India can identify how and when European and Indian per capita emissions might converge. But to make progress, we need tangible collaborative projects.

Flagship Projects

The High-Level India-EU Dialogue has identified four areas for potential Joint India-EU flagship programmes:

1. **solar energy (CSP and photovoltaic);**
2. research into, and implementation of, **adaptation programmes;**

3. tackling the effects of **black carbon**;
4. research into the potential for **biochar**, and implementation of subsequent programmes.

A joint India-EU approach could play a major role in reducing carbon emissions and promoting research, development and training to give both partners a global competitive advantage in new technology for the low carbon economy of the future.

Issues of technology transfer and intellectual property rights (IPR) must be resolved urgently. This will require a joint agreement that neither prevents risk taking and investment nor creates a price barrier that prevents innovative solutions from being widely used in poor communities.

India-EU collaboration can also leverage international finance for climate change. The establishment of a significant private and public sector Euro 50-100 billion 'Fund-of-Funds' partnerships could be a way forward. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown's global fund recently announced marks a significant step towards this direction.

The potential for imaginative flagship projects lies at the heart of the High-Level India-EU Dialogue recommendations. Ownership of Flagship Projects should be assumed at a political level by both partners and a coordinating mechanism should have clear lines of reporting to both parties on a regular basis and annually to the India-EU Summit.

The Institutional Partnership

Without diminishing or undermining the important work undertaken by the existing India-EU mechanisms, we suggest that the process of enhancing India-EU cooperation requires that these mechanisms be strengthened.

There are three key reasons for strengthening India-EU mechanisms:

1. to coordinate and rationalise the work of existing joint institutional mechanisms and to set a strategic road map for long term enhanced cooperation;

2. to bring together technical, financial and political factors required to drive forward Joint Flagship Projects referred to in the joint India-EU Summit Communiqué of 2007;
3. to create a strategic framework for private investment to develop new technologies.

Strengthening, coordinating and enhancing India-EU partnership could unleash new energies and tap into the skills, talents and entrepreneurial potential of people in India and the EU member states and be in the vanguard of the so-called '*Third Industrial Revolution*'.

Many of the existing India-EU bodies feed their reports and recommendations to the annual India-EU Summit meetings that take place alternately in India and the Member State that holds the EU Presidency. The last meeting was held in Delhi on 6th November 2009 and agreed to "prepare ambitious, credible and country-owned climate-friendly plans including adaptation and mitigation actions".

One of the joint mechanisms, for example the EU-India Energy Panel or the Science and Technology Steering Committee, should be given the clear lead and political authority, flowing from the Summits, to take forward work in the area of climate destabilisation. It could then play a vital role in coordinating the work of the many separate technical committees and working groups, thereby providing a strategic direction and maximising their effectiveness.

Reports on progress would be submitted to the annual India-EU Summit meetings but there would also be the need for political engagement from both sides on a continuing and continuous basis between Summits. There will be a need to

- draw together the reports of the various working groups into a coordinated body of agreed recommendations;
- propose clear targets for enhanced cooperation on flagship projects, joint research and modelling and adaptation to the annual India-EU Summit meeting;
- oversee the execution of decisions taken by the annual India-EU Summits;
- evaluate key projects for recommendations to the India-EU Summit;

- encourage dialogue with civil society organisations able to assist in the implementation of strategic goals;
- prepare the agenda and the necessary papers for the annual India-EU Summit meetings working closely with all the Directorates-General of the European Commission, Indian ministries and relevant EU member states' administrations.

The Panel or Committee could be strengthened with a small permanent secretariat of civil servants from India and the EU, based in Delhi and overseen by an Action Group or Task Force of six senior people – representing the Commission, the Presidency (on behalf of the Council of Ministers) and Parliament from the EU, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change and Lok Sabha from India – to give the strategic partnership political weight between Summits, and prepare the Summit.

Once established, such joint enhanced cooperation can be widened to include other willing partners from both the global North and South to form a Global Climate Community.

For email updates on the High-Level India-EU Dialogue

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