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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
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To: Delegations

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Subject: New Strategic EU-India Agenda
– Council Conclusions (20 October 2025)

Delegations will find in the annex the Council Conclusions on the new Strategic EU-India Agenda, as approved by the Council at its 4125th meeting held on 20 October 2025.

Council Conclusions on the new Strategic EU-India Agenda

1. The Council welcomes the strong impetus in relations between the European Union and India, exemplified by the EU's commitment to the new Strategic Agenda with India, announced by the President of the Commission in the Political Guidelines 2024-2029, as well as by the College of Commissioners visit to India in February 2025. Enhanced political, trade, economic, research and innovation, and security cooperation between the EU and India can support the delivery of prosperity and stability for both peoples.
2. The Council endorses the Joint Communication on a 'New Strategic EU-India Agenda' by the High Representative and the European Commission, and the priority pillars that it identifies for deepening EU-India ties, including prosperity and sustainability, technology and innovation, security and defence, and connectivity and global issues, underpinned by the key cross-pillar enablers.
3. The Council notes that those priorities are interlinked, are mutually reinforcing and are in the shared interests of both the EU and India. The priorities respond to emerging needs, opportunities and threats in a geopolitical context characterised by instability and unpredictability. On a bilateral, regional and global level, joint action and dialogue through the EU-India Strategic Partnership can deliver for both sides.
4. The Council welcomes the initiatives envisaged in the Joint Communication to boost economic growth and economic security and to address any challenges to those goals by strengthening and diversifying supply chains, enhancing research and innovation capabilities and opening up markets.

5. The Council welcomes efforts to conclude a balanced, ambitious, mutually beneficial and economically meaningful Free Trade Agreement (FTA). With that objective in mind, we recall the aim of both the European Commission and the Indian government to finalise the negotiations by the end of this year. This must include enhanced market access, the removal of trade barriers, and provisions on sustainable development. Foreign direct investment is a crucial driver of economic growth and technological development. The Council supports endeavours by the EU and India to create a more open and transparent investment environment, including through the FTA, the EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC) and the work of business associations including the Federation of European Business in India (FEBI). The Council further supports endeavours to conclude, in parallel, the Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) and an Agreement on Geographical Indications between the EU and India.
6. The Council supports the enhancement of the work of the TTC in domains that are indispensable for economic security, prosperity and stability, including digitalisation, artificial intelligence, safe and sustainable low-carbon energy technologies and resilient supply chains. The Council welcomes efforts to strengthen collaboration in key strategic technological domains, such as semiconductors. At the same time, preventing the unauthorised transfer or misuse of sensitive technologies must be a shared priority. The closer involvement of business in the TTC's work will help to ensure effective delivery.
7. The Council welcomes the deepening of the research and innovation partnerships, leveraging both the EU's and India's vibrant startup ecosystems and respective innovation tools, including through the proposed EU-India Startup Partnership, the EU-India Innovation Hubs and the invitation extended to India to become associated with Horizon Europe.

8. The green transition lies at the heart of efforts to advance sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The Council reaffirms the importance of the Paris Agreement and its 1.5°C goal, the Global Stocktake, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2030 Agenda. The Council underlines the need to work towards a reduction in global emissions, including through economy-wide, nationally-determined contributions encompassing all greenhouse gases, and by cooperating on industrial decarbonisation for the production of decarbonised iron and steel. The Council reaffirms the EU-India Clean Energy and Climate Partnership as a key framework for cooperation, and welcomes the commitment to advance collaboration on safe and sustainable low-carbon energy, including hydrogen, and other critical technologies, in support of shared energy, climate and economic development objectives.
9. The Council welcomes initiatives to strengthen connectivity between the EU and India. The EU's Global Gateway plays a vital role in delivering financial and technical support for resilient infrastructure and secure and trusted connectivity. Joining forces with India on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, including through the Global Gateway, is unlocking new possibilities for cross-regional connectivity.
10. The EU and India are both facing multiple challenges in a world with an increasingly complex geopolitical outlook. These include violations of territorial integrity, hostile military deployments and exercises, terrorism, hybrid threats, including Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), impediments to freedom of navigation and overflight, the weaponisation of space and the impact on security of climate change and environmental degradation.

11. The EU will continue to engage with India on all aspects of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine - which constitutes a manifest violation of the UN Charter - including efforts towards a just and lasting peace, prevention of re-export of battlefield items and dual use technologies to Russia, countering illegal practices of Russia's shadow fleet, as well as circumvention of EU sanctions, especially on Russian oil exports. The EU stands ready to engage with India in a Dialogue on Energy Import Diversification with the aim of securing reliable and affordable sources. With strategic, security and commercial interests in mind, the EU and India are both committed to a free and open Indo-Pacific, underpinned by international law, including UNCLOS. The EU's participation in the Indian Ocean Rim Association and in the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, in common with India, provides a space for greater engagement.

12. The Council welcomes closer collaboration between the EU and India on security and defence matters based on the principles of mutual trust and respect. The Council takes note of the intention to pursue work towards the establishment of a Security and Defence Partnership, which could provide a comprehensive framework to enable closer cooperation and reinforce existing and upcoming dialogue and engagement, including on maritime security, non-proliferation and disarmament, space, counterterrorism and countering cyber and hybrid threats, and facilitate defence industrial cooperation when appropriate. The Council welcomes the further development of counterterrorism cooperation, including by advancing operational cooperation, such as the one between Europol and the Indian Central Bureau of Investigation. The Council takes note of the steps to conclude a Security of Information Agreement to facilitate the exchange of classified information and stronger cooperation in security and defence areas, in line with the security interests of the EU and its Member States, which could lead to India's participation in EU security and defence initiatives in line with EU Treaty-based frameworks.

13. The Council supports the development of joint sea activities with the Indian Navy, including through the mobilisation of EUNAVFOR ATALANTA and EUNAVFOR ASPIDES, and the further reinforcement of maritime situational awareness, with a view to promoting shared assessment, coordination and interoperability, as well as sharing best practices and information in close cooperation with Member States on the protection of critical maritime infrastructure. The Council looks forward to India's possible participation in civilian and military missions within the framework of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy, with full respect for the respective decision-making processes.
14. The outward-looking nature of the EU-India strategic partnership will be further developed, including through trilateral cooperation with third states in areas such as digital public infrastructure, through engagement at global level to support climate resilience in third countries, working together with the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and the International Solar Alliance, and through shared endeavours in the fields of humanitarian assistance, disaster preparedness and management, sustainable mobility and transport.
15. The Council emphasises the joint capacity and responsibility of the European Union and India to safeguard multilateralism and the rules-based international order with the UN Charter at its core, as well as the multilateral trading system, in particular the WTO. The promotion and protection of democratic values and norms, international law and human rights, including the rights of women and children, is an intrinsic part of the EU-India strategic agenda, underpinning the strategic priorities set out in the Joint Communication. The EU and India should continue to strengthen their engagement on those shared values and to intensify cooperation bilaterally and in multilateral fora where possible.

16. The Council welcomes the increased efforts to promote and facilitate – while respecting national competences – orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility procedures for skilled professionals between the EU and India through new, targeted initiatives, such as the European Legal Gateway Office, aimed at greater connectivity of our labour markets and mutual benefit of our labour market needs, as well as to step up efforts to combat irregular migration.
17. The Council supports the strengthening of people-to-people ties and structured dialogue between the EU and India, particularly through enhanced cooperation in higher education, research, think tanks and innovation, as well as cultural exchanges, as a means of fostering talent circulation, supporting skills development and investing in future generations.
18. The Council recalls the close cooperation between EU Member States and India in the priority areas set out in the Joint Communication, as well as the importance of ensuring the mutual reinforcement and impact of the EU's and EU Member States' engagement in those fields.
19. The Council invites the High Representative and the Commission to take forward the articulation and implementation of the new strategic EU-India agenda on the basis of the priorities set out in the Joint Communication.

