



Council of the European Union

PRESS
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BACKGROUND
Brussels, 29 March 2016

EU-India Summit **Brussels, 30 March 2016**

The 13th EU-India Summit will be held in Brussels on 30 March 2016.

The EU will be represented by Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, and by Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission. India will be represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission Federica Mogherini is also expected to attend.

The summit with India, one of the EU's ten strategic partners, will be an opportunity to re-launch EU-India relations and make progress on concrete areas such as trade and investment, foreign and security policy, climate, energy, water and migration.

The summit will start at 16.30 on Wednesday 30 March with a leaders only meeting.

At 17.15 there will be a short ceremony to sign an agreement between the European Investment Bank and India for a loan of €450 million for the metro of Lucknow city. This will also be an occasion to exchange a joint declaration on a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM).

This will be followed by a working dinner, at which European Parliament President Martin Schultz and European Investment Bank President Werner Hoyer will join the leaders.

A joint press statement will be issued at the end of the summit.

Press conferences by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu/>

Video coverage in broadcast quality and photos in high resolution:

<http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu>

Bilateral relations

At the summit leaders are expected to endorse the **EU-India Agenda for Action 2020**. This sets out concrete priority actions for the next 5 years. It encompasses a wide range of areas for cooperation such as foreign and security policy, trade and investment, economy, global issues as well as people-to-people contacts.

At the summit leaders will be seeking increased cooperation opportunities and benefits for citizens and business between the EU's Agenda for Jobs and Growth and India's "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" initiatives ("Collective Efforts, Inclusive Growth"), in particular on energy, environment/water, research and innovation, migration and mobility.

The summit should welcome and endorse the establishment of a **Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility** (CAMM) between the EU and India. CAMM addresses four pillars in a balanced manner: regular migration and fostering well-managed mobility; irregular migration and trafficking of human beings; maximising the development impact of migration and mobility; and international protection. CAMM, as a framework for cooperation, is the start of a longer-term process that will lead to deeper cooperation and solid mutual engagement in a key global policy area for our mutual interest.

Leaders will also adopt two joint declarations. One on an **'Indo-EU Water Partnership'**, which supports the Indian 'Clean Ganga' and 'Clean India' flagship projects and creates business and technology opportunities between the EU and India. The second declaration will be on an **'Indo-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership'** which is key to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and will trigger a climate dialogue with India. It will also reinforce energy cooperation, mainly on renewable energy sources.

Leaders will equally address the ongoing **negotiations for a Broad based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)** with an aim to instil some political impetus to the stalled talks.

Political and security cooperation, including human rights, will also be the focus of discussions at the summit. In the context of a reinforced strategic partnership, the EU and India are expected to adopt a renewed **joint declaration on Counter Terrorism**. The two parties will pledge to step up their cooperation to counter extremism and radicalisation, stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and curb sources of terrorist financing and arms supply.

The Summit should furthermore enhance the importance of cooperation in the area of research and innovation, including through the EU's Horizon 2020 programme and the recently renewed Science & Technology Cooperation Agreement. The parties should also encourage the increasing links between the 'Digital India' initiative and the EU's 'Digital Single Market' and are expected to welcome the prospects of a **signature in 2016 of a Joint Declaration on 5G communication networks**.

The summit will also provide an opportunity for leaders to raise more sensitive bilateral issues such as the ongoing **international arbitration under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** in regard to the case of two Italian marines, as well as the case of fourteen Estonian and six UK Guards sentenced to prison by an Indian court.

Foreign Policy

In their discussions on foreign policy, the leaders are expected to focus on the latest developments in the EU's and India's respective neighbourhoods. In particular the summit should provide an opportunity to discuss and support the on-going efforts towards a Afghan-led and Afghan owned process of peace and reconciliation. In this context leaders are expected to look forward to the Brussels Ministerial Conference on **Afghanistan** on 5 October 2016. Leaders are also likely to discuss Pakistan, Nepal and China.

The summit should also express concern about the situation in the **Middle East**, and in particular the precarious situation in **Syria**. Leaders are expected to call for a political transition and support all efforts to bring an end to violence in Syria.

The two sides are expected to discuss Ukraine and underline their strong support for sovereignty of all states, and respect for territorial integrity. Leaders should call on all parties to fully implement the Minsk Agreements.

Global issues

Leaders are expected to reaffirm the **G20's key role in achieving strong, sustainable and balanced growth** to the benefit of citizens and are expected to underline the importance of implementing the comprehensive agenda adopted at the G20 summit in November 2015.

In particular the EU side is expected to raise the need for **global responses to the challenges of migration** and in particular the refugee crisis stemming from on-going conflicts.

Both sides should also agree to start a dialogue for the full and **swift implementation of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development** and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Finally, leaders are expected to **welcome the historic climate change agreement reached in Paris** and agree to continue to work with each other and with the global community towards the realisation of the goals of the Paris Agreement.
