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Trade body concern over India's Boeing deal

UK Bureau

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Its not only the French who are upset at Air-India's decision to go in for Boeing passenger planes. The newly formed Europe India Chamber of Commerce (EICC) is expressing concern over the "political fall out" in Europe as a result of India's decision to award its entire 50-aircraft order to US-based Boeing worth \$6 billion.

The EICC in a statement Friday said it was not surprised over the disappointment expressed by the European Union and France citing irregularity and lack of transparency in the process.

The Secretary General of the Brussels based trade body, Sunil Prasad, said he heard that "factors other than commercial" supposedly influenced the deal but hoped that France's attempts to sell Mirage fighter jets to the Indian Air Force would not meet with the same fate.

The Airbus "Fly by-wire" planes in service by both Air India and Indian Airlines for last several years have proved trust worthy and economic in the light of rising fuel prices and therefore Indian government's decision to go for Boeing is neither convincing nor rational," said Prasad.

He noted that Airbus had superior technology compared to Boeing and also expressed doubts if Boeing would be able to meet Air India order in the next three years.

Prasad said he was concerned that the Boeing deal would lead to "serious apprehension in Europe" about India's trade and investment policies.

He pointed out that the European Union is the largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to India and both have developed substantial trade and economic relations.

The "Strategic Partnership Agreement" signed between EU and India on November 8, last year upgrading their relationship to a strategic level, in addition to helping India in its quest to become global player, was also to promote trade and investment between EU and India.



<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1101377.cms>

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Europe-India trade body voices concern over AI- Boeing deal

PTI[FRIDAY, MAY 06, 2005 07:12:21 PM]

BRUSSELS: The newly-formed Europe India Chamber of Commerce (EICC) has expressed concern over the political fall out in Europe of India's decision to award its entire 50-aircraft order to US-based Boeing.

The EICC in a statement today said it was not surprised over the disappointment expressed by the European Union and France citing irregularity and lack of transparency in the process.

The Secretary General of the Brussels based trade body, Sunil Prasad, said he apprehended that "factors other than commercial" were supposed to have influenced the deal and hoped that France's attempts to sell Mirage fighter jets to the Indian Air Force would not meet the same fate.

Prasad said he was concerned that the Boeing deal would lead to "serious apprehension in Europe" about India's trade and investment policies.

<http://in.rediff.com/money/2005/may/07ai.htm>

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Now EICC slams A-I deal

May 07, 2005 18:22 IST

A newly-formed Europe India Chamber of Commerce has said that "factors other than commercial" have influenced India's decision to buy 50 aircraft from the US-based Boeing and expressed its apprehension that it might have a "political fall out" in Europe.

The EICC in a statement said it was not surprised over the disappointment expressed by the European Union and France citing irregularity and lack of transparency in the process.

The secretary general of the Brussels-based trade body, Sunil Prasad hoped that France's attempts to sell Mirage fighter jets to Indian Air Force would not meet with the same fate.

The Airbus 'fly by-wire' planes in service by both Air-India and Indian Airlines for the last several years have proved trustworthy and economic in the light of rising fuel prices and therefore Indian government's decision to go for Boeing is "neither convincing nor rational," Prasad said.

He said Airbus has superior technology compared to Boeing and expressed doubts whether Boeing would be able to meet Air-India's order for the next three years.

Prasad said he was concerned that the Boeing deal would lead to "serious apprehension in Europe" about India's trade and investment policies.

He noted that the European Union is the largest source of foreign direct investment to India and both have developed substantial trade and economic relations.

The Strategic Partnership Agreement signed between EU and India on November 8 last year upgrading their relationship to a strategic level, in addition to helping India in its quest to become global player, was also to promote trade and investment between EU and India, he said.

