



Europe India Chamber of Commerce

**Trade and Investment Partnership Summit (TIPS) 2017
"EU-INDIA – SEEKING A TRANSFORMATIVE MOMENT IN A NEW WORLD ORDER"**

5 DECEMBER 2017 (TUESDAY)

Palace of the Academies, rue Ducale / Hertogsstraat 1 1000 Brussels

Registration: 0800hrs – 09h30

REGISTRATION: 08.15HRS – 09.15HRS

Opening of the Summit

09.15hrs – 10.45hrs

Opening Address

Welcome by Dr. Ravi K Mehrotra, CBE, Chairman, EICC & Executive Chairman, Foresight Ltd. UK

Her Excellency Ms. Gaitri Issar Kumar, Ambassador of India to Belgium & Luxembourg and the Mission to the European Union

Mr. Geoffrey Van Orden, MEP and President of European Parliament Delegation for Relations with India

Mr. Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary-General, EUROCHAMBRES

Key-Note Speaker: Mr. Pieter De Crem, Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, Government of Belgium

Mr. Samir Saran, Vice President, Observer Research Foundation, India

Mr. Eddy Laurijssen, Vice Chairman, European Institute for Asian Studies

Q&A

Session 1: EU-India Trade: Making up for a Lost Decade

10.45hrs - 12.15hrs

EU-India economic relations in the form of bilateral investment and trade constitute the most important element in EU-India bilateral relations. An ambitious, balanced and

comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) – officially known as Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) which is under negotiation since 2007, can deliver significant economic benefits and economic growth for European Union (EU) member states and India. A free trade agreement between European Union and India would build on the existing strong relations between them to simultaneously boost more than a decade of strategic relations. A free trade agreement would encourage greater innovation and manufacturing efficiencies by stimulating joint technological development, practical applications and new cooperative ventures. The EU and India should prioritize the need to advance the multilateral trading system. The BTIA will be the most comprehensive agreement between many of the great democracies. Both the European Commission and the Government of India will have to make every effort to capitalise on opportunities to give fresh vitality to the European and Indian economies and move rapidly to the completion of the EU-India FTA.

The FTA despite the differences between the EU's and India's negotiating agendas in a tough economic climate, both partners will need to show the determination in negotiating mega-regional agreements. A fresh impetus from both sides is urgently required to reinvigorate EU-India trade talks, which have been languishing for over ten years. Problems notwithstanding, the proposed agreement is critical for both the EU and India. Given both sides' reluctance to agree to the other's demands, they should begin by negotiating less difficult sectors. This will demonstrate willingness to get back to the negotiating table and send a clear signal that both sides want to talk further. Reaching an agreement that will bring mutual benefit to both the EU and India has been a long journey, but, despite several missed deadlines, it is not out of reach. This was demonstrated during the EU-India Summit held in October in New Delhi when both parties agreed to speed up the negotiations.

*Moderated by: **Mr. Abhinav Kumar**, Director Communications, TCS Europe*
Opening Statements by:

Ms. Regina Llopis, Chairperson, AIA Group, Spain

Mr. Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International, India

Mr. Paulo Casaca, Executive Director, South Asia Democratic Forum, Portugal

Dr. Daniel H. Sharma, Partner, DLA Piper and Co-Head India Group, Germany

Mr. Dirk Vantuyghem, Director of Operations, EUROCHAMBRES

Mr. Rosario Zacca, Partner, Gianni, Origoni, Grippo, Cappelli & Partners, Italy

Mr Peter Berz, Head of Unit, Directorate General for Trade, European Commission

Inter-active session

Special Presentation on General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - "GDPR: why should Indian companies care?" by Mr. Maarten Stassen, Crowell & Moring LLP

12.15hrs -12.45hrs

The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is one of the most lobbied EU regulations. The GDPR will apply from 25 May 2018 and it will replace both the current EU Directive which dates back to 1995, as well as the national data protection laws implementing that Directive.

Special Presentation by Mr. Christoffer Hamin, CEO, D-Rail AB, Sweden

12.45 – 1300 hrs

1300hrs – 1400hrs Networking Lunch hosted by EICC, FIT

Session 2: Goods and Services Tax (GST) the game changer: A boon for India's economy and Ease of Doing Business in India

1400hrs -15.00hrs

India's biggest tax reform is now a reality. Goods & Service Tax (GST) makes India a single seamless market by removing cascading impact of taxes and brings transparency in compliance enabling about 2% increase in the Country's economic growth. GST is a game changing reform - most ambitious & biggest ever tax reform since independence - by developing a common Indian market and reducing the cascading effect of tax on the cost of goods and services. Indian Prime Minister has termed the successful implementation of GST as the spirit of cooperative federalism and the nation has come together to support GST. It will have impact the Tax Structure, Tax Incidence, Tax Computation, Tax Payment, Compliance, Credit Utilization and Reporting leading to a complete overhaul of the current indirect tax system. The implementation of GST is expected to bring in the much-needed boost to the nation's economy. It is expected that implementation of the new tax structure will address concerns of the foreign investors doing business in India and attract more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and increase tax compliance. This is expected to improve business transparency which will create a trust-worthy bond between corporates and the government.

Presentation by the Representative of the Government of India

*Moderated by: **Dr. Jean-Joseph Boillot**, Co-Chairman, Euro-India Economic and Business Group, France*

Opening Statements by:

Mr. Yatindra Sharma, Managing Director, KHS Machinery, India

Mr. Vibhav Kapoor, Director, IL&FS, India

Ms. Archana Jalkar, Associate Secretary General, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, India

Mr. Claudio Maffioletti, Secretary General, The Indo-Italian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, India

Interactive Session

Session 3: India, Europe and Brexit: Living in uncertain times

15.00hrs -16.15hrs

Britain and the European Union have started the long and painful negotiations on Britain's exit from the Union – but the outcome of the Brexit talks remains uncertain. EU policymakers have voiced frustration at Britain's negotiating stance on key issues such as the rights of EU citizens living in Britain and the so-called "financial settlement" or the Brexit

bill while Britain's pro-Brexit politicians and press have accused the EU of being too rigid and inflexible. While her officials do battle in Brussels and London, British Prime Minister Theresa May is seeking to consolidate old and new partnerships for her "Global Britain" agenda of international free trade deals to compensate for any fall in trade with the EU27. Given the lack of clarity on the outcome of the negotiations – and fears that Britain may in the end leave the EU without a deal – many businesses have started to move from Britain to new headquarters in Europe. In this scenario, India has a stake as both UK and India are keen to start a free trade agreement.

- What opportunities and challenge does India see in Brexit?
- Six months after the start of Brexit negotiations, are we getting any clarity regarding the future of EU-UK-India relations?
- Will Germany replace the UK as India's gateway to the European Union?

Remarks by Knowledge Speaker: **Ambassador Ms. Bhaswati Mukherjee**, India

Moderated by Ms. Shada Islam, Director, Policy, Friends of Europe

Opening statements by:

Mr. Pratik Dattani, Former Director, FICCI, UK and Managing Director, EPG Economic and Strategy Consulting, UK

Mr. Charles De Jager, International Trade Expert, Crowell & Moring

Mr. John Verzele, Director, Flanders Investment and Trade

Interactive Session

16.15hrs – 16.30hrs – Tea / Coffee Break

Session 4: Opportunities for India and EU in the Digital Economy: Dealing with the Skills Mismatch and other Challenges

16.30hrs - 17.45hrs

The Indian government is focused on developing a 'Digital India' - an enabler for a digital economy. Building inclusive digital economies requires the collective action of governments, industry, financiers, and civil society. Before speeding ahead, India needs to build the infrastructure, align the policies, and create the tools that will enable the poor to comfortably board the digital train. India's challenge to becoming a digital economy remains formidable. The government has announced a slew of new initiatives: Digital India; Make in India; Start-up India; Smart Cities, and innovative applications of Aadhaar such as JAM (Jan-Dhan Yojana-Aadhaar-Mobile trinity) and Digital Lockers. Successful and accelerated implementation of these programmes can make up for some of the lost time. But India also needs to do more by strengthening the basic foundations of its digital economy. However, there are several challenges peculiar to India that may constrain a full-scale digital transition in the foreseeable future. Why did India, which has had the remarkable achievement of being the largest exporter of information technology services and skilled manpower among developing countries, fall behind in digitally transforming its economy? The challenge lies not only with regard to fresh skilling and reskilling. The need is digital skills for all Indians, not just those encompassing the IT and ITES industry. If India is to be the most sought after digital marketplace, effective Small and Medium Enterprises

(SME) participation is an absolute must. For India to become the powerhouse of digital innovation, it needs to foster a strong youth talent pipeline, encourage workforce upskilling to enhance digital adoption, build on digital literacy and digital skills, Cultivate digital entrepreneurship, etc.

*Opening remarks by Knowledge Speaker – **Mr. Ravi Parthasarathy**, Chairman, IL&FS, India*

*Moderated by: **Prof. Dr. Idesbald Goddeeris**, Director, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies*

Opening Statements by: Representative of TCS, Europe

Ms Diane Mieviss, Director for Digital Trade Policies, DIGITALEUROPE

Mr. Rajendra Shende, Chairman TERRE Policy Centre, India

Mr. Ranvir Nayar, Managing Director, Media India Group and Vice Chairman, EIFE
Representative of European Commission

Interactive Session

Session 5: India – EU Strategic Partnership: A Vision for the Future Introduction of the Book “Dynamics of India - EU Relations: Building on Challenges and the Way Forward”

17.45hrs - 18.45hrs

In the last fifty-five years, India-EU relations have grown exponentially from what used to be a purely trade and economic driven relationship to one covering all areas of interaction. Over the years, the EU and India have upgraded their relations in both quality and depth. India and the EU, as the largest democracies in the world, share common values and beliefs that make them natural partners as well as factors of stability in the present world order. Both share a common commitment to pluralism, human rights and the rule of law, to an independent judiciary and media. India has its own unique past, a very different present, and it will have to chart out her own version of future in the context of larger EU-India relations. To meet the suffocating international challenges and the EU being a major economic player, EU and India need to develop a much more comprehensive dialogue than it has done so far.

The Book examines the growing mutuality and the challenges in EU-India relations including Brexit, the need to redefine the relationship and suggests a way forward to establish a truly meaningful strategic partnership on one hand and a free trade and investment agreement on the other.

Europe has woken up to the vast business and cultural potential of India as fast-paced economic growth transforms India into one of the fastest major economies. EU-India relations have come far and wide than many could have imagined with several bilateral close cooperation agreements been signed. Though the EU is India's largest trading partner and FDI from the EU into India has also grown considerably in recent years, EU's economic ties with India are yet to achieve its full potential. India's relations with the EU have been mainly focused on the burgeoning trade and investment relationship. But not many Indians see the EU as a strategic partner, largely because of its inability to reach a

united position on the issues that matter to India such as reform of the UNSC, terrorism and other international issues. With new idea and initiatives, it is believed that EU-India trade relations will get a big boost after they conclude the on-going negotiation on the bilateral trade and investment agreement. The EU-India Summit held in October, gives renewed hope that both sides are ready to "defreeze" the state of the economic relations for a larger and greater role in the world scene.

Opening Remarks by Her Excellency Ms. Gaitri Issar Kumar, Ambassador of India to Belgium & Luxembourg and the Mission to the European Union

Address by High Representative of European Commission

*Introduction and Presentation of the Book by Author **Ambassador Ms. Bhaswati Mukherjee***

Expert views of Political Analysts, Journalists, Columnists and Think Tanks:

Ms. Neena Gill, MEP, Vice Chair, European Parliament Delegation for Relations with India

Ms. Shada Islam, Policy Adviser, Friends of Europe

Mr. Fraser Cameron, Director, EU-Asia Centre

Ms. Maria Demertzis, Dy. Director, BRUEGEL

Inter-active Session

18.45hrs. - Closing of the Summit

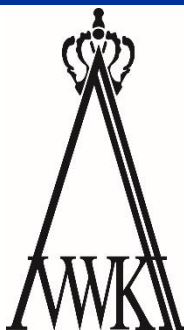
Networking Cocktail and Reception Hosted by EICC and

Organisers, Partners and Supporters

crowell  **moring**

 **EIFE**
EUROPE INDIA
Foundation for Excellence

MIG
MEDIA INDIA GROUP



 **TERRE**
Policy Centre
Technology, Education, Research and Rehabilitation for the Environment
Leading platform for development through Alternate Path

Supported by



**FLANDERS
INVESTMENT &
TRADE**
