



Embassy of India
Belgium, Luxembourg & the European Union



**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 – 09h00hrs

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

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

Mr. Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary-General, EUROCHAMBRES

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

Ms. Madi Sharma, Entrepreneur and Member, European Economic & Social Committee
Interactive 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

12.45hrs -13.00hrs

1300hrs – 1400hrs - Networking Lunch hosted by Flanders Investment and Trade, Tata Consultancy Services, Foresight Group

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

14.00hrs -15.15hrs

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.

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

Mr. Vincent van Noord, Associate Director, European Business and Technology Center, India

Mr. Ryan Tewari, Chairman, The Netherlands India Chamber of Commerce & Trade

Interactive Session

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

15.15hrs -16.30hrs

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?

Moderated by Ms. Shada Islam, Director for Europe and Geopolitics, 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 Verzeele, Director, Flanders Investment and Trade

Ms. Caroline Vinot, Head of Division – ASIAPAC 1 (South Asia – Regional Affairs), European External Action Service

Interactive Session

16.30hrs – 16.45hrs – Tea / Coffee Break

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

16.45hrs -18.00hrs

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.

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

Opening Statements by:

Representative of TCS, Europe

Mr. Rajendra Shende, Chairman TERRE Policy Centre, India

Mr. Ranvir Nayar, Managing Director, Media India Group, India

Ms. Julia Jasinska, DIGITALEUROPE

Interactive Session

18.00hrs. - Closing of the Summit

Networking Cocktail and Reception

Organisers, Partners and Supporters

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