

## **12th MEETING OF THE EU-INDIA ROUND TABLE**

**Paris, France**

**15-16 July 2008**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The EU-India Round Table held its 12th meeting in Paris on 15-16 July 2008.
2. The Round Table provides a forum for civil society cooperation and contributes to the enhancement of bilateral relations between India and the EU. The political decision to set up the EU-India Round Table was taken at the Lisbon Summit of June 2000. The first meeting of the EU-India Round Table was held in New Delhi on 29-30 January 2001. The recommendations of the meetings of the Round Table are forwarded to the European Institutions and to the Government of India, to be considered at the annual EU-India Summits.
3. The Round Table requests the European and Indian authorities to invite its co-Chairs to present its work and recommendations to the next EU-India Summit in Marseilles, on 29 September 2008.
4. The Round Table reaffirms its commitment to fully participate in the implementation of the India-EU Joint Action Plan.
5. During the 12th Round Table three main topics were discussed: trade and investment, climate change and migration.

The 12th EU-India Round Table adopted the following recommendations:

#### ***Climate Change***

6. The Round Table reaffirms that the challenge of climate change and energy can only be met with the support of civil society, and that a partnership on climate change and energy must not be limited to an intergovernmental dimension but must include a civil society dimension.
7. The Round Table emphasises that, in view of the gravity and urgency of the climate change challenge, a “business as usual” approach is not a viable option for any country. The Round Table stresses that all industrialised countries should commit themselves to important and quantified emission reductions by 2020 as well as enabling developing countries to implement mitigation and adaptation measures by providing finance and technology transfers.

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8. The Round Table acknowledges that developing countries need to achieve rapid development, to meet their economic and social aspirations, and to cope with climate change, while integrating climate change concerns into their development plans. More specifically, they could promote measures falling into three general categories: (1) cost-effective energy efficiency and energy conservation measures, such as adoption of clean-coal technologies, adapted public transportation system, use of bio-fuels provided they are not produced at the expense of food crops, (2) promotion of energy security, and diversification of energy sources, including promotion of renewable energy; (3) health related local environmental concerns.
9. The Round Table welcomes “the high priority to tackling climate change and promoting energy security as a key to sustainable development” expressed by India and the EU in the Joint Statement adopted at the 8<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit (November 2007). It also welcomes the EU’s decision to accept a quantified emission reduction commitment for 2020, a decision which is yet to be taken by other industrialised parties, and India’s National Action Plan on climate change which launched eight ambitious “missions” to address climate change.
10. In this context, the Round Table welcomes the discussions on the India-EU draft work programme on energy, clean development and climate change as well as the possible joint project on solar energy and other initiatives. It reaffirms that a civil society contribution and dimension to these projects and programmes should be taken into account.
11. The Round Table recommends that dialogue be encouraged between European and Indian stakeholders at all levels (universities, research institutes, local authorities, business, trade union federations, consumers associations, NGOs, etc) to facilitate experience sharing, cooperation and formulation of recommendations to the public authorities.
12. The Round Table notes that there is a need to support civil society initiatives to raise awareness among the citizens, and empower socio-economic players, particularly in the rural areas and in urban planning.
13. The Round Table decides to contribute to awareness raising on climate change and energy issues through its Internet Forum and to address this issue regularly during its meetings..

### ***Trade and Investment***

4. The Round Table recognises that EU and India constitute strategically important markets for each other's economic operators both in terms of immediate opportunities as well as future potential. There is obviously a huge potential to increase trade and investment relations between the EU and India.

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15. The Round Table welcomes the launching of the negotiations of the Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement between the EU and India, and urges the negotiators to fully involve their respective civil societies in monitoring progress.
16. The Round Table welcomes the inclusion of a sustainable development perspective in the negotiating mandate in view of global concerns at the economic, social and environmental levels.
17. The Round Table welcomes the objective to achieve elimination of duties on at least 90% of tariff lines and trade volume within 7 years of the entry into force of the agreement, taking into account the need for a balanced and equitable outcome, and calls for special treatment to be given to sensitive products.
18. The Round Table is of the view that the service chapter of the future agreement should ensure substantial sectoral coverage in terms of number of sectors, volume of trade and modes of supply with improved market access for investors.
19. The Round Table stresses the importance to include ambitious trade facilitation provisions in the future bilateral trade agreement.
20. The Round Table stresses the necessity to facilitate the development of trade at the SMEs level through more transparency and harmonisation of trade and investment rules. In particular, the Round Table proposes the setting-up of an EU-India business support centre for SMEs.
21. The Round Table recognises the importance of technical cooperation and recommends that a chapter on technical barriers to trade (TBT) and on sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures (SPS) aiming to prevent and eliminate barriers to trade and ensuring uniform, harmonised, non-discriminatory requirements regarding registration, certification, labelling, and notification, while respecting legitimate objectives in terms of protecting health, food safety., be included.
22. The Round Table decides to use its expertise and networks to organise a workshop in India before its next meeting on the trade and investment negotiations to enhance civil society awareness of these negotiations.

### ***Migration***

23. The Round Table held an exchange of views on the issue of migration. It recognises the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to migration policies, which has the potential to create a "win-win" situation in India and in Europe.
24. The Round Table decides to have an in-depth discussion on migration during its next meeting and to present recommendations from a civil society perspective taking account of the views of the Indian Diaspora, particularly in the areas of brain drain/brain trust, obstacles to free movement and co-development.

### **India-EU Civil Society Internet Forum**

25. The Round Table welcomes the launching of the Internet Forum by Mr Anand Sharma, Minister of State of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 2 May 2007 and its operationalisation by NASSCOM. It will be regularly updated with information from both sides, including information originating from other stakeholders.
26. The Round Table is convinced that this Forum will provide a useful vehicle for disseminating information on its activities and for facilitating networking and interaction within civil society.

### **Future work**

27. The Round Table agrees that its next meeting will take place in India in 2009 and that issues related, to: 1) migration, 2) vocational training and technical education, 3) renewable and solar energy will be addressed.
28. The Round Table will also discuss education and culture in the context of its next meetings.

Paris, 16 July 2008.

**Chandrashekhar Dasgupta**  
India co-Chairperson

**Dimitris Dimitriadis**  
EU co-Chairperson