



2017/2025(INI)

4.4.2017

DRAFT REPORT

on EU political relations with India
(2017/2025(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Cristian Dan Preda

CONTENTS

	Page
MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION.....	3

MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on EU political relations with India (2017/2025(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the EU-India Strategic Partnership, established in 2004 and to the India-EU Strategic Partnership Joint Action Plan of 7 September 2005,
- having regard to the ‘EU-India Agenda for Action-2020’ adopted at the 13th EU-India Summit and to the Joint Statement of the same summit,
- having regard to the EU Global Strategy for the Foreign and Security Policy of June 2016,
- having regard to the Commission communication of 4 September 2001 entitled ‘Europe and Asia: A Strategic Framework for Enhanced Partnerships’ (COM(2001)0469),
- having regard to Regulation (EU) No 234/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries¹,
- having regard to its recommendation of 28 October 2004 to the Council on EU-India relations²,
- having regard to its resolution of 29 September 2005 on EU-India relations: A Strategic Partnership³,
- having regard to its resolution of 24 September 2008 on the preparation of the EU-India Summit (Marseille, 29 September 2008)⁴,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on India, including the ones on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law,
- having regard to its resolution of 2 February 2012 on EU foreign policy towards the BRICS and other emerging powers: objectives and strategies⁵,
- having regard to its resolution of 13 April 2016 on the EU in a changing global environment – a more connected, contested and complex world⁶,
- having regard to its resolution of 10 May 2012 on maritime piracy⁷,
- having regard to its resolution of 27 October 2016 on nuclear security and non-

¹ OJ L 077 15.03.2014, p. 77.

² OJ C 174, 14.07.2005, p. 63.

³ OJ C 227 E, 21.9.2006, p. 589.

⁴ OJ C 8E, 14.1.2010, p. 69.

⁵ OJ C 239E, 20.8.2013, p. 1.

⁶ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2016)0120.

⁷ OJ C 261 E, 10.9.2013, p. 34.

proliferation¹,

- having regard to the 11th Asia-Europe (ASEM) Summit, held in Ulaanbaatar on 15-16 July 2016, and of the 9th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP) meeting, held in Ulaanbaatar on 21-22 April 2016, and to the respective declarations adopted by both meetings,
 - having regard to Rule 52 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the opinion of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (A8-0000/2017),
- A. whereas the EU and India are the world's two largest democracies and are strongly committed to the promotion of peace, stability and security, as well as to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- B. whereas the EU and India have built over the last two decades a Strategic Partnership founded on shared values, given that they are natural partners and factors of stability in the present multi-polar world; whereas the Strategic Partnership could be deepened;
- C. whereas at the 13th EU-India Summit, which took place on 30 March 2016 following a four-year gap, a new roadmap was adopted for the Strategic Partnership for the next five years;
- D. whereas a Joint Declaration on the fight against terrorism was adopted at the 13th EU-India Summit;
- E. whereas the EU and India, as important economic partners, have been engaged since 2007 in negotiations for an ambitious free trade agreement;
- F. whereas increased coordination between the EU and its Member States regarding their relationship with India would further allow the Strategic Partnership to be strengthened;
- G. whereas India is a vibrant democracy and an open society with a free press and an active civil society; whereas the EU and India have regularly exchanged best practices regarding human rights and democratic practices;

The solid foundations of a valuable partnership

1. Expresses full support for a stronger and deeper partnership between the EU and India, rooted in their powerful political, economic, social and cultural links and founded on the shared values of democracy and pluralism, as well as on mutual respect;
2. Considers that enhanced political relations between the two partners could positively contribute to fostering regional and international cooperation in a world that faces multiple challenges, such as security tensions, disrespect for international law, terrorism, poverty and inequality;
3. Believes that the relationship between the EU and India has grown significantly in

¹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2016)0424.

quality and scope since the Joint Political Statement of 1993; highlights the importance of the EU-India Strategic Partnership established in 2004 and meant to acknowledge their close ties and to take their relations to a higher and more intensive level;

4. Highlights that the partnership between the EU and India has not yet reached its full potential; considers that stronger political engagement is needed on both sides to make the relationship more dynamic and valuable for the challenges the two partners face at regional and international level; underlines that an assessment of the functioning of the strategic partnership could generate ideas about possible ways to advance it;

A stronger partnership for the EU's and India's mutual benefit

5. Welcomes the holding of the 13th EU-India Summit in Brussels on the 30 March 2016; urges the EU and India to hold summits on an annual basis, as they committed to, given that such high-level meetings positively contribute to increasing cooperation, mutual understanding and reciprocal visibility;
6. Welcomes the endorsement of the EU-India Agenda for Action-2020, which is a roadmap for intensifying the Strategic Partnership over the next five years; takes positive note of the areas of cooperation re-launched in 2016, such as the fight against terrorism and migration; underlines the importance of effectively implementing the Agenda with clear steps and deadlines;
7. Reiterates its support for the establishment of a comprehensive and ambitious free trade agreement between the EU and India, which should be economically, socially and politically valuable for both sides;
8. Takes positive note that the EU and India have re-engaged in discussion on the ways to proceed with negotiations on a Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA); urges both sides to proceed with the negotiations with a view to concluding the BTIA as soon as possible;
9. Recommends the adoption at EU level of a consistent strategy for its relations with India, with clear priorities; draws attention to the importance of both the EU institutions and the Member States implementing such a strategy in a coherent and coordinated manner; considers that that EU's priorities for India could also be defined in an updated strategy for EU-Asia relations;
10. Highlights the importance of interparliamentary structured dialogue for the functioning of the Strategic Partnership; requests that an India-Europe Friendship Group, acting as a counterpart for the European Parliament Delegation for Relations with the Republic of India, be formed in the Lok Sabha as soon as possible;

A broad agenda for cooperation on foreign and security policies

11. Emphasises the significant potential for increased synergies between the EU and India with regard to foreign and security policy; is convinced that regular and consistent dialogue can pave the way for mutual understanding and, consequently, for increased coordination between the EU's and India's foreign affairs agendas at regional and international level, including on topics on which different approaches were adopted in

the past;

12. Welcomes the commitment made in the EU-India Agenda for Action-2020 to set up fora for Foreign Policy and Security Consultations; underlines the added value of increasing the frequency and weight of high-level exchanges in the area of foreign affairs and security;
13. Calls for the EU, together with the Member States, and India to pursue and strengthen their efforts in promoting effective, rule-based multilateralism at global level; encourages them to coordinate as much as possible their positions and initiatives at UN level on issues where their cooperation could make a difference, but also in other international fora, such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO);
14. Emphasises the significant added value of the cooperation between the EU and India in supporting democratic processes in Asia, in countries such as Myanmar, Sri Lanka or the Maldives; underlines, moreover, the importance of the EU and India coordinating their humanitarian aid and development policies in the region, in order to positively contribute to the political, economic and social processes in the countries concerned;
15. Notes the India-EU Joint Declaration on the fight against terrorism of 30 March 2016; underlines the importance of pursuing cooperation between the EU's and India's security and law enforcement services under the existing arrangement within Europol; recommends facilitating the exchange of best practices and information between India and the EU, including with its Member States; encourages both sides to advocate together the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at UN level, as well as the increase of effectiveness of the UN terrorist designations;
16. Stresses the importance of deeper cooperation between the EU and India for contributing in Afghanistan to building an Afghan-led state and institutions, to reconciliation processes and to the emergence of a political and economic environment that will allow the consolidation of peace and security; encourages, in particular, enhanced political coordination on security and military questions, development support and measures for addressing the regional context;
17. Calls for renewed efforts of rapprochement and restoration of good neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan, and for working, including through various regional cooperation fora, towards the establishment of durable peace and cooperation, which would positively contribute to the security of the region; stresses the utmost importance of combating terrorism, in all its form and manifestations;
18. Recommends further cooperation on universal disarmament, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear security, objectives that both the EU and India are committed to;
19. Welcomes the firm stance of both India and the EU on the illegal nuclear and ballistic missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which constitute a threat to regional and international peace, and encourages further cooperation for ensuring wide implementation of the UN sanctions against the DPRK;
20. Takes positive note of the support expressed at the 13th EU-India Summit by both sides

for full implementation of the Minsk Agreement by all parties regarding the conflict in Eastern Ukraine; recalls that the EU has strongly condemned Russia's aggressive actions and has a non-recognition policy of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol; hopes that, through dialogue, the EU and India could further align their positions;

21. Encourages the EU and India to further exchange views, both during summits and during their regular foreign affairs and security consultations, on the situation in the Middle East and on areas of possible cooperation which could improve the stabilisation of the region, including through measures at international level; draws attention, in particular, to the importance of cooperation for ensuring a lasting political solution in Syria under the existing UN-agreed framework and for supporting post-agreement reconstruction, once a credible political transition is underway;
22. Stresses the significant mutual benefits the EU and India could draw from intensifying their cooperation in areas such as maritime security, cyber security and data protection, as well as migration and mobility; recommends, in the area of maritime security, developing a common understanding of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and identifying the most appropriate joint measures for cooperating within its framework;

A strengthened exchange on the human rights dimension of the partnership

23. Welcomes the reaffirmed commitment to increased exchanges on the human rights dimension of the EU-India Strategic Partnership, as citizens of both sides can benefit from enhanced cooperation on human rights issues; underlines, in this context, the importance of Human Rights Dialogues; notes that no exchange has taken place since 2013, and urges that a dialogue be held as soon as possible;
24. Recalls its long-standing opposition to capital punishment in all cases and under all circumstances; reiterates its call for an immediate moratorium on executions in India;
25. Underlines that freedom of expression and association are an integral part of a democratic society; draws attention, in this context, to the limitations to the freedom of association and expression under the current Indian law on foreign participation in the funding of NGOs;
26. Acknowledges the significant efforts made by the Indian authorities with a view to combating all forms of discrimination, including caste-based; notes with concern, however, that caste-based discrimination continues to be a source of abuse, and encourages India's authorities, therefore, to strengthen their efforts to eradicate this violation of human rights; encourages India, furthermore, to ensure full protection of minorities, in particular religious and ethnic ones;

◦

◦ ◦

27. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council, the Commission, and the Government and Parliament of India.