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REPORT

with a proposal for a European Parliament recommendation to the Council on
EU-India Relations
(2004/2195(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Emilio Menéndez del Valle

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PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL

on EU-India Relations 2004/2195(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a recommendation to the Council by Glyn Ford on behalf of the PSE Group on EU-India Relations (B6-0005/2004),
 - having regard to the Communication from the Commission on an EU-India Strategic Partnership of 16 June 2004(COM(2004)0430),
 - having regard to the 5th EU-India Summit which was due to take place in The Hague on 14 October 2004, and which will now take place on 8 November 2004,
 - having regard to the most recent European Parliament-India Interparliamentary meeting, held in New Delhi from 17-20 April 2002,
 - having regard to the geo-strategic importance of India and its potential role in a multilateral world order, and in particular its status as the world's largest multicultural democracy, sharing the with the EU Member States the core defining common values of free and fair elections, respect for the rule of law independence of the judiciary and respect for minorities,
 - having regard to the significance of India with its diversity of religions, cultures, ethnicities and languages and its importance to the dialogue among civilisations,
 - having regard to India's emergence as the largest power in South Asia, with a key role in the dominant regional multilateral organisations such as SAARC, ASEAN, GCC and CICA,
 - having regard to Rule 114(3) and Rule 90 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A6-0024/2004)
1. Recommends that the Council, at the 5th EU-India Summit, take the decision to upgrade the EU-India relationship to a Strategic Partnership, in order to promote an effective multilateral approach, and that it take the necessary practical steps; strongly supports closer ties between the EU and India and believes that mutual respect and partnership find their best expression in open dialogue on all matters, including those on which there are divergent views. To this end, the Council is asked to ensure that the following points are given particular attention:

- 1.1 Developing a strategic alliance with India for the promotion of an effective multilateral approach, supporting peace, security, human rights and democracy and

taking into account all aspects of bilateral relations in this partnership including the above-mentioned items;

- 1.2 While continuing to promote a strong trade relationship, also enhancing the relationship on other key levels such as political, cultural, social;
- 1.3 Promoting a strong trade relationship and working with India to better understand the global economy and, more specifically, to understand the benefits for both economies with regard to outsourcing and insourcing-related matters;
- 1.4 Strengthening their co-operation on conflict prevention and post-conflict political and economic reconstruction and rehabilitation - taking into account the positive role that regional integration plays in conflict prevention -, all this to be done bilaterally and in UN fora;
- 1.5 Addressing global concerns such as non-proliferation and disarmament, terrorism and organised crime; expanding the mandate of the EU-India Joint Working Group on Anti-Terrorism to cover security co-operation as a whole, focussing also on money laundering, cyber-terrorism and narco-terrorism; mandating EUROPOL to institutionalise cooperation with India, and supporting India's application for "privileged country status" with Europol;
- 1.6 Cooperating in the field of security policy, this being all the more urgent since the US has decided to start exporting nuclear and other advanced technology to India again for the first time since 1998, the year the US imposed sanctions against India after it had conducted a nuclear test;
- 1.7 Paying particular attention to the India-Pakistan dialogue, including the Kashmir issue; welcoming the dialogue and hoping for a fruitful conclusion; and paying attention to the need to develop and secure mutual trust and confidence between these two major countries;
- 1.8 Examining ways in which the European Union, with its significant experience of regional integration, could promote regional co-operation in South East Asia through the South Asia Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC);
- 1.9 Collating a list of all bilateral links (within the EU) with India, with the idea of integrating them in a European framework with a view to identifying examples of best practice or areas where unnecessary duplications or contradictions may exist;
- 1.10 Working with India to promote co-operation on global environmental challenges;
- 1.11 Developing a dialogue with India on cross-cutting issues such as good governance, environment, industrial policy, competition issues, defence equipment, and strategic sectors such as the information society, transport, energy, biotechnology and co-operation on space-related matters;
- 1.12 Supporting the continuing dialogue on organisational and institutional restructuring and reform of the UN; co-ordinating positions in the preparation, negotiation and implementation of major multilateral conventions in the UN; such co-ordination

could be implemented through joint regular meetings between the EU and India missions to the UN;

- 1.13 Enhancing civil society contacts and two-way academic exchanges, and strengthening cultural relations, specifically through the establishment of an EU-India Centre for Indian Studies; giving serious thought to the possibility of holding regular cultural weeks to coincide with future India-EU Summits;
 - 1.14 Devising a strategy to improve the visibility of the EU in India and vice versa;
 - 1.15 Supporting the European Parliament's endeavour to enhance contacts and discussions with the Indian Parliament, including institutionalisation of regular meetings between the Lok Sabha and European Parliament delegations;
2. Instructs its President to forward this recommendation to the Council and, for information, to the Commission and to the Government and Parliament of India.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. Background to the report

On 16 June 2003 the Commission came forward with a Communication on an EU-India Strategic Partnership (COM(2004)430).

2. The 5th EU-India Summit was due to take place in The Hague on 13-14 October 2004. It was postponed and will now be held on 8 November 2004.

On the basis of a proposal - by Glyn Ford MEP - for a recommendation to the Council on EU-India Relations, the President of Parliament referred the proposal to the Committee on Foreign Affairs for consideration on 16 September 2004. The report before you is the follow-up to this consideration.

This report is intended as Parliament's contribution to the Summit, in the light of the Commission's Communication, of developments since the Communication was adopted, and in view of the forthcoming Summit.

3. Contents of Commission Communication

By way of background, it could be useful to consider briefly the contents of the Communication.

This Communication is essentially an examination of the many facets of EU-India relations in the light of India's role as an emerging global player and a major regional actor.

It proposes a series of concrete steps to strengthen co-operation in five key areas:

- international co-operation through multi-lateralism with a focus on conflict prevention, the fight against terrorism, non-proliferation; and human rights;
- strengthening of economic partnerships through sectoral and regulatory policy dialogues;
- co-operation in development policies to help India meet the Millennium Development Goals;
- fostering intellectual and cultural exchanges;
- improving the institutional architecture of EU-India relations.

4. EU-India Relations

EU-India relations go back to the early 1960s: India was among the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the (then) EEC.

Bilateral agreements were signed in 1973 and 1981. The current 1994 co-operation agreement is a wide-ranging 'third-generation' agreement, going beyond simply trade and economic co-operation, and makes provision for a Joint EU-India Commission, and for three separate sub-commissions on Trade, on Economic Co-operation, and on Development Co-operation, which report directly to the Joint Commission (most recent meeting: 22 October 2003).

The EU is India's largest trading partner and main source of foreign inward investment (but India is only the EU's 14th trading partner, trailing behind e.g. China, Brazil and South Africa).

The institutional basis for the political dialogue between the EU and India is the Joint Political Statement (of 1993) signed in parallel with the 3rd Generation Co-operation Agreement. The statement opened the way for annual ministerial meetings and a broad political dialogue.

Political Dialogue

Since the 1993 Joint Political Statement was put into place, dialogues have been held at different levels and at regular intervals and, since 1997, have been intensified.

On 28 June 2000, the EU-India Summit, held in Lisbon, decided to hold Ministerials yearly, Senior Officials' meetings twice a year, and Summits on a regular basis.

The next (5th) EU-India Summit was scheduled for 13-14 October 2004 in The Hague, but, as stated above, was postponed.

Inter-Parliamentary relations

The EP's Delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia and the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) has held inter-parliamentary meetings with the Indian Parliament (the Lower House, or Lok Sabha), although it has been a number of years since an Indian Parliamentary delegation last visited Brussels or Strasbourg.

Now that a new Indian government is in place (since May 2004), it would be a good opportunity for a delegation from the Indian Parliament to make a return visit in the near future, in view of further developing our relations.

5. Parliament's recommendation

In view of the forthcoming Summit, Parliament has made a number of recommendations to Council. These recommendations take up some of the key points in the Commission's Communication, and go beyond them, suggesting, for example, certain concrete actions that can/could be taken (eg. the establishment of an EU-India Centre for Indian Studies; the possibility of holding regular Cultural Weeks to coincide with future EU-India Summits; devising a strategy to improve the visibility of the EU in India and vice versa; working with India to better understand the problems (and benefits) of a global economy; mandating Europol to institutionalise co-operation with India¹; supporting India's application for "privileged country status" with Europol; drawing attention to the importance of the India-Pakistan dialogue, including on the Kashmir issue, and stressing the need to develop and secure mutual trust and confidence between these two major countries; collating a list of all bilateral links EU Member States have with India, with the idea of integrating them in a European framework with

¹ The Council has the responsibility of proposing the (very limited) list of countries with which Europol may have an official relationship of co-operation. As such, the Council is being asked to put India on this list.

a view to identifying examples of best practice or areas where unnecessary duplications or contradictions may exist.

Parliament looks forward to a successful EU-India Summit and to taking up the above and other emerging issues in the follow-up to the Summit.

29.7.2004

PROPOSAL FOR A RECOMMENDATION (B6-0005/2004)

pursuant to Rule 114(1) of the Rules of Procedure

by Glyn Ford, on behalf of the PSE Group

on EU-India relations

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Communication from the Commission of 16 June 2004 on an EU-India Strategic Partnership (COM(2004)0430),
 - having regard to the 5th EU-India Summit, which will take place on 14 October 2004 in The Hague,
 - having regard to the results of the Lok Sabha elections, which took place between 20 April and 10 May 2004 and which led to a change in government,
 - having regard to Article 114(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. considering the geostrategic importance of India and its potential role in a multilateral world order,
1. Addresses the following recommendations to the Council:
 - (a) to establish a strategic partnership with India in order to promote an effective multilateral approach;
 - (b) to take into account all aspects of bilateral relations in this partnership, i.e. political, economic, social, human rights etc.;
 - (c) to pay particular attention to the India-Pakistan Dialogue, in particular the Kashmir issue, taking into account the conclusions of the EP-Delegation visit to both parts of Kashmir from 8 to 11 December 2003 and from 20 to 24 June 2004;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this recommendation to the Council and, for information, to the Commission and the governments of the Member States.

PROCEDURE

Title	EU-India Relations	
Procedure number	2004/2195(INI)	
Proposal(s) for recommendation(s) considered	B6-0005/2004	
Basis in Rules of Procedure	Rules 114(3) and 90	
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	AFET 26.10..2004	
Date of decision to draw up report	13.9.2004	
Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary	INTA 26.10.2004	
Not delivering opinion(s) Date of decision	INTA 5.10.2004	
Enhanced cooperation Date announced in plenary		
Other proposal(s) for recommendation(s) included in report		
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Emilio Menéndez del Valle 13.9.2004	
Previous rapporteur(s)		
Discussed in committee	21.9.2004 5.10.2004	
Date adopted	5.10.2004	
Result of final vote	for: 64 against: 0 abstentions: 2	
Members present for the final vote	Angelika Beer, Panagiotis Beglitis, Bastiaan Belder, Monika Beňová, André Brie, Elmar Brok, Philip Claeys, Paul Marie Coûteaux, Simon Coveney, Massimo D'Alema, Véronique De Keyser, Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos, Camiel Eurlings, Maciej Marian Giertych, Ana Maria R.M. Gomes, Alfred Gomolka, Klaus Hänsch, Anna Ibrisagic, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, Ville Itälä, Ioannis Kasoulides, Bogdan Adam Klich, Helmut Kuhne, Vytautas Landsbergis, Armin Laschet, Cecilia Malmström, Emilio Menéndez del Valle, Francisco José Millán Mon, Philippe Morillon, Nicholson of Winterbourne, Raimon Obiols i Germà, Vural Öger, Cem Özdemir, Justas Vincas Paleckis, Tobias Pflüger, João de Deus Pinheiro, Mirosław Mariusz Piotrowski, Paweł Bartłomiej Piskorski, Bernd Posselt, Libor Rouček, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Gitte Seeberg, Marek Maciej Siwiec, Ursula Stenzel, István Szent-Iványi, Konrad Krzysztof Szymański, Inese Vaidere, Ari Vatanen, Karl von Wogau, Luis Yañez-Barnuevo García, Josef Zieleniec	
Substitutes present for the final vote	Árpád Duka-Zólyomi, Carlo Fatuzzo, Giovanni Claudio Fava, Gerardo Galeote Quecedo, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Tunne Kelam, Glenys Kinnock, Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Kurt Joachim Lauk, Janusz Onyszkiewicz, Józef Pinior, Bogusław Rogalski, Jean Spautz, Marcello Vernola	
Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	José Ribeiro e Castro	
Date tabled – A6	20.10.2004	A6-0024/2004
Comments	...	

PROPOSAL(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) CONSIDERED

Number B6 Author Title Committee responsible Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary	B6-0005/2004 Glyn Ford on behalf of the PSE Group EU-India AFET INTA 16.9.2004
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