



Plenary sitting

A9-0435/2023

12.12.2023

REPORT

on a European Parliament recommendation to the Council, Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy concerning EU-India relations (2023/2128(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Alviina Alametsä

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RECOMMENDATION

to the Council, Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy concerning EU-India relations (2023/2128(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the EU-India Strategic Partnership established in 2004,
- having regard to the joint statement of the 15th EU-India summit of 15 July 2020, to the document entitled ‘EU-India Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025’ adopted at the summit and to the other joint statements signed recently by the EU and India,
- having regard to the Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of India on partnership and development of 1994¹,
- having regard to the joint communication of the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) and the Commission of 20 November 2018 entitled ‘Elements for an EU strategy on India’ (JOIN(2018)0028) and the related Council conclusions on the EU Strategy on India of 10 December 2018,
- having regard to the joint communication of the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 16 September 2021 entitled ‘The EU Strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific’ (JOIN(2021)0024),
- having regard to the joint communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the update of the EU Maritime Security Strategy and its Action Plan ‘An enhanced EU Maritime Security Strategy for evolving maritime threats’ of 10 March 2023 (JOIN(2023)0008),
- having regard to the ‘Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy - Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe’ of June 2016,
- having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe²,
- having regard to the Strategic Compass for Security and Defence approved by the Council on 21 March 2022,
- having regard to the EU’s restrictive measures against Russia over Ukraine,

¹ OJ L 223, 27.8.1994, p. 24.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1.

- having regard to the Council conclusions of 20 February 2023 on EU priorities in UN human rights fora in 2023,
- having regard to the EU thematic guidelines on human rights, including those on human rights defenders, on human rights dialogues and on the protection and promotion of freedom of religion or belief,
- having regard to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,
- having regard to the UN General Assembly resolution on aggression against Ukraine adopted on 2 March 2022,
- having regard to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and to the Paris Agreement,
- having regard to the 2022 United Nations Universal Periodic Review of India,
- having regard to its resolution of 21 January 2021 on connectivity and EU-Asia relations³,
- having regard to its resolution of 5 July 2022 on EU-India future trade and investment cooperation⁴,
- having regard to its resolution of 7 June 2022 on the EU and the security challenges in the Indo-Pacific⁵,
- having regard to its resolution of 13 September 2017 on EU political relations with India⁶,
- having regard to its resolution of 13 July 2023 on India, the situation in Manipur⁷,
- having regard to its recommendation of 29 April 2021 to the Council, the Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy concerning EU-India relations⁸,
- having regard to the press statement of the Delegation to India and Bhutan on the 10th round of the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue held on 15 July 2022,

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(Ex AM 3(Or. en) of FdR AM\9997979EN)

- having regard to the conclusions of the G20 Summit held in New Delhi on 9 and

³ OJ C 456, 10.11.2021, p. 117.

⁴ OJ C 47, 7.2.2023, p. 23.

⁵ OJ C 493, 27.12.2022, p. 32.

⁶ OJ C 337, 20.9.2018, p. 48.

⁷ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2023)0289.

⁸ OJ C 506, 15.12.2021, p. 109.

10 September 2023,

- having regard to the forthcoming EU-India summit to be held in New Delhi,
 - having regard to Rule 118 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A9-0435/2023),
- A. whereas the EU and India intend to convene at leaders' meeting in New Delhi in early 2024, in particular to reaffirm the commitments of both sides to their strategic partnership and to review the implementation of the EU-India Roadmap 2025;
- B. whereas India is set to hold parliamentary elections in May and June 2024 and the European Parliament will hold its elections in June 2024;
- C. whereas in 2022, the EU and India marked the 60th anniversary of their bilateral partnership; whereas this partnership has gained momentum in recent years, reflecting the strong political, economic, social and cultural ties and a renewed political will to strengthen their partnership across a number of sectors and policy areas; whereas this partnership has, however, not yet reached its full potential;
- D. whereas bilateral relations between EU Member States and India on issues such as connectivity and climate contribute to the EU-India partnership; whereas geopolitical challenges have strengthened the shared interest of the EU and India in ensuring security, prosperity and sustainable development;
- E. whereas bilateral and multilateral cooperation with India is particularly warranted in the current context of a polycrisis, including geopolitical challenges, democratic backsliding worldwide, a spiralling climate crisis, heightened inequalities and increasing great power competition; whereas the EU seeks a partnership based on a level playing field with India as this partnership has the potential to allow for the diversification of its supply chains and to positively contribute to global and regional prosperity and stability and the upholding of a shared vision of effective multilateralism and a rules-based multilateral order;
- F. whereas India's regional and global importance and relevance are growing as it has surpassed China as the most populous country in 2023 and as it is positioning itself as a regional economic and military power and is strengthening partnerships as well as boosting economic and defence ties in particular across Southeast Asia; whereas the EU is India's largest trading partner and it is in the mutual interest of both sides to foster closer economic ties;
- G. whereas through its strategic framework vested in its Global Strategy, its Strategy on India, its Strategy for EU-Asia Connectivity and the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy the EU recognises India's growing geostrategic importance and underlines the need to cooperate in the global arena and converge on a common agenda;
- H. whereas India's growing regional and global significance is reflected by its G20 Presidency in 2023, which began on 1 December, and its membership of the UN Security Council in 2021-2022 as well as of the UN Human Rights Council in 2019-

2022 and 2022-2024;

- I. whereas the Indian Ocean has become a global centre of interest with strategic importance for global trade and of vital economic and strategic interest for both the EU and India; whereas one of the Member States of the European Union has outermost regions and overseas countries and territories in the Indo-Pacific; whereas the EU and India share a common interest in de-risking the relationship with China and positioning themselves jointly on the latter's increasing influence in the Indo-Pacific and globally; whereas the EU's Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific of 2021 emphasised partnerships and cooperation as ways to respond to geopolitical competition in the Indo-Pacific and identified cooperation with India as one of the EU's priorities in the region; whereas the EU and India have a convergent interest in keeping the Indo-Pacific region open, free and safe, focusing on sustaining the region as an area of fair competition, undisrupted sea lines of communication (SLOC), stability and security; whereas on 5 October 2023, EU and India held their third India-EU Maritime Security Dialogue;
- J. whereas over one third of all European exports go to the Indo-Pacific region most of them transit through the sea lanes in the Indian and Pacific Oceans; whereas the EU is dependent on unimpeded maritime highways that pass through the Indo-Pacific and has therefore a clear interest in maintaining stability in the Indian Ocean region;
- K. whereas India has sought to diversify partnerships and has strengthened relations among others with Japan, Australia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the economic, security, maritime and diplomatic fields, seeking further integration with Southeast Asia and deepening strategic cooperation;
- L. whereas EU and Indian leadership is needed to promote effective climate diplomacy, a global commitment to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the global protection of the climate, the environment and biodiversity;
- M. whereas local and international human rights monitors report that human rights defenders and journalists in India are subjected to reprisals for their work, including harassment, arbitrary detention, serious criminal charges under repressive legislation (including counter-terrorism legislation); whereas, despite being prohibited, caste-based discrimination remains a systemic problem in India;
- N. whereas the India-EU Trade and Technology Council was established on 6 February 2023;
- O. whereas negotiations with India on a free trade agreement (FTA) are ongoing; whereas separate negotiations on an Investment Protection Agreement and an Agreement on Geographical Indications (GIs) with the aim of strengthening the strategic partnership are also ongoing;
- 1. Recommends that the Council, Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy:

The EU-India Strategic Partnership: the institutional framework

- (a) continue to broaden and deepen EU-India relations as strategic partners and to uphold the commitment to regular multi-level dialogues and summits; pursue a ‘Team Europe’ approach to the partnership;
- (b) highlight that in the current international environment, both the EU and India face pressing security challenges, which require a diplomatic response coupled with strengthened deterrence, and cooperation between democratic states;
- (c) make tangible advances on priority areas of the partnership, in particular climate change and green growth, digitalisation and new technologies, research and development, connectivity, trade and investment, foreign, security and defence policy and human rights and the rule of law;
- (d) continue to promote and fully implement the EU Strategy on India of 2018 and the EU-India Roadmap to 2025 in close coordination with Member States’ own actions to actively engage with India; establish clear and publicly available criteria for measuring progress on the roadmap;
- (e) based on the review of the implementation of the EU-India Roadmap 2025 and taking into account the perspectives and needs of all parties, start preparations for an ambitious, multifaceted and thoroughly revamped partnership and cooperation;
- (f) ensure that any deepening of the partnership is based on the values of freedom, democracy, pluralism, the rule of law, equality, respect for human rights social justice, sustainable development and a commitment to promoting an inclusive rules-based global order;
- (g) enable parliamentary oversight of the EU’s policy towards India through regular exchanges with Parliament’s Committee on Foreign Affairs, its Subcommittees on Human Rights and on Security and Defence and other relevant committees;
- (h) establish a more structured and multi-level inter-parliamentary dialogue between the European Parliament and its Indian counterparts;
- (i) ensure the active and regular transparent, open and inclusive consultation and involvement of EU and Indian civil society representatives including trade unions, environmental and women’s rights organisations and minority representatives, in the development, implementation and monitoring of EU-India relations; secure, as a matter of priority, the establishment of an EU-India Civil Society Platform for this purpose and of an EU-India Youth Summit as a side event at future EU-India summits, in order to strengthen relations between the younger generations;
- (j) increase the EU’s public diplomacy efforts to address the knowledge deficit on both sides and improve mutual understanding and substantially enhance the framework for people-to-people exchanges, also including academia and think-tanks;

EU-India cooperation on foreign and security policy

- (k) further develop both parties' growing cooperation on foreign and security policy and promote greater synergies in this field through existing dialogue mechanisms and other fora set up under the EU-India Roadmap to 2025, notably in the interest and for the advancement of democracy, human rights, rule of law and in defence of multilateralism and a rules-based international order;
- (l) recognise that the EU-India first security and defence consultation held in June 2022 is a sign of the increasing importance of security cooperation in the partnership; draw on the posting of the first military attaché in the EU delegation in New Delhi to facilitate closer military-to-military cooperation and exchanges; hold bilateral security dialogues on an annual basis with greater involvement of EU Member States in order to strengthen the policy dialogue and produce tangible results through the effective buy-in of Member States; ensure, further, that this increasingly prominent component of the partnership effectively promotes shared security, stability and peaceful development in the Indo-Pacific region in line with the EU's renewed commitment to diversifying relations in the Indo-Pacific region; emphasise the importance of the EU-India Counter Terrorism Dialogue;
- (m) encourage India to strengthen regional security cooperation while acknowledging the volatile context of proliferation, military modernisation, and territorial disputes; promote conflict prevention and economic cooperation by supporting regional integration initiatives in South Asia, including within the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC);
- (n) advance on the plans to strengthen police cooperation, bearing in mind that such cooperation should be accompanied by high-level data protection safeguards and guarantees that data transfers will be lawful, including through an adequacy decision taken by the Commission;
- (o) enhance cooperation on hybrid threats, particularly in the fight against disinformation campaigns, through mechanisms aiming to share evidence and intelligence;
- (p) expand and broaden EU-India cooperation on maritime security also encouraged by shared interests, in particular given China's evolving presence in the Indo-Pacific; ensure a free and open, rules-based international order including freedom of navigation, open and secure SLOCs, enhanced security of shipping and more robust response systems for natural disasters and non-traditional security threats and for combating piracy and illegal fishing; build on experiences of constructive cooperation, in particular India's support for the EU's Naval Operation Atalanta (EUNAVFOR) by protecting World Food Programme vessels when requested, as well as its participation in joint passing exercises (PASSEX); follow up on the first EU-India naval exercises of June 2021 in the Gulf of Aden; encourage further a shared understanding of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea; respond positively to the Indian proposal that the EU join the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative; consider developing a joint EU-India regional maritime capacity-building programme for the smaller island and coastal states in the Indian Ocean;
- (q) strengthen EU-India cooperation on disarmament and non-proliferation and encourage India to join EU efforts to promote nuclear safety and the non-proliferation of nuclear,

chemical and biological weapons in the region;

- (r) build on the EU's first ever space strategy for security and defence, and on India's increasing focus on space security by taking a joint initiative to encourage partners to promote multilateral solutions for the peaceful use of space and safe, secure and sustainable access to space, and to counter the risks of its increasing militarisation;
- (s) coordinate positions and initiatives in multilateral fora by pushing for joint objectives based on shared international values and standards, particularly in the UN, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and G20, effectively aligning positions in defence of multilateralism, human rights and an inclusive rules-based international order; engage in discussions on a reform of the UN Security Council and working methods and support India's bid for permanent membership of a reformed UN Security Council; point out that the EU and India are two of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping and committed advocates for sustainable peace;
- (t) promote joint action and coordination on development and humanitarian aid, strengthened connectivity, development of infrastructure and support for democratic processes in the Global South;
- (u) engage with India on the issue of its heavy military dependency on Russia and on the EU's sanctions policy towards Russia; urge India to join the international condemnation of Russia's illegal war against Ukraine, while maintaining its political line of aiming for an end to hostilities and the resumption of diplomacy and dialogue; engage with India on its continued purchases of crude oil from Russia at low prices and India's subsequent sale of refined oil products on international markets, including in the EU; ensure proper monitoring of the implementation of restrictive measures and sanction any attempt at circumventing them, in particular by EU-based businesses who must cease purchasing such products, which constitute in essence a circumvention of EU sanctions against Russia;
- (v) continue to closely monitor the worrying situation in Indian-administered Kashmir, in particular the respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Kashmiri people; remain committed to supporting stability, de-escalation and rapprochement through good neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan on the basis of the principles of international law and through a comprehensive dialogue and a step-by-step approach; promote the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and the recommendations made in reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Kashmir;
- (w) monitor closely the unresolved border dispute between India and China, who are both nuclear powers, given that in this border region the situation is fragile and there is increasing militarisation, which has the potential to intensify and affect the wider security landscape in South Asia and global security; note with concern the permanent tension in relations between India and China, due to unresolved border disputes and condemn any attempts to unilaterally change the border status quo, such as by China in 2020; underscore to both parties the critical importance of resolving the issue peacefully through dialogue and in line with the norms of international law; in this regard, welcome recent talks between leaders and the agreement to intensify efforts to

disengage and de-escalate tensions along the border; welcome India's efforts to contribute to regional stability by engaging with the region;

Human rights and democracy: from an appendix to the heart of EU-India relations

- (x) effectively enshrine human rights and democratic values at the heart of the EU's engagement with India with the aim of a constructive and results-based dialogue; develop a strategy and plan of action to address these issues, and to integrate them across the wider EU-India partnership;
- (y) condemn acts of violence, increasing nationalistic rhetoric and divisive policies and call on leaders to cease making inflammatory statements in order to resolve social conflicts, including those in Manipur; continue to express serious concern, including publicly, about India's Citizenship Amendment Act and other laws that discriminate on grounds of religion and that are dangerously divisive; encourage India to guarantee the right to freely practice the religion of one's choice, as enshrined in Article 25 of its Constitution; counter and condemn hate speech that incites discrimination or violence against any religious minority, such as Muslims and Christians; urge the Indian authorities to take all necessary measures and make the utmost effort to halt the ongoing violence, including hate speech, against ethnic and religious minorities and certain faith-based organisations in the country and to hold the perpetrators accountable;
- (z) insist that India, as a founding member of the United Nations and a current member of the UN Human Rights Council, acts on all recommendations of its Universal Periodic Review process, including by accepting and facilitating the visits of UN special procedures and cooperate closely with them, most of which have to date not been allowed to visit the country since 1999;
- (aa) address at all levels of its dialogue with the Indian authorities the concerns raised by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN special rapporteurs about the situation of human rights, civil society and vulnerable and marginalised groups, such as women, children, migrants and LGBTIQI persons, with reference to mutual treaty obligations under various international law instruments;
- (ab) emphasise the importance of India demonstrating its commitment to respect, protect and fully enforce the constitutionally guaranteed rights to freedom of expression for all, including online, media freedom and the right to peaceful assembly and association and the independence of the judiciary; encourage India to create an environment conducive to diverse and independent journalism and to protect all media professionals as provided for by its Constitution;
- (ac) work jointly with India to secure a safe and democratic environment for the work of human rights and environmental defenders, indigenous people and Dalit rights defenders, political opponents and trade union activists, journalists and other civil society actors; cease invoking laws against sedition, foreign funding and terrorism as a means to restrict their legitimate activities, including in Indian-administered Kashmir; release all political prisoners; stop blanket restrictions on internet access; review laws in order to avoid their possible abuse to silence dissent; amend laws that foster discrimination and facilitate access to justice and ensure accountability for human rights violations; address the harmful effects of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act and

the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act on civil society organisations; increase EU and Member State support for civil society organisations and human rights defenders, including by facilitating funding opportunities;

- (ad) welcome the adoption of the Women's Reservation Bill, which will reserve one third of seats in national and state parliaments for women and is a notable step forward in the right to participation for women and gender equality in India; engage with India on its efforts to investigate and prevent gender-based violence and discrimination and promote gender equality and women's empowerment;
- (ae) press the Indian authorities to end persisting caste-based discrimination in India and to grant rights to Adivasi communities under the Forest Rights Act; share EU experience in addressing the domestic challenges of hate crimes; adopt in particular a country strategy to help fight caste-based discrimination and to mainstream caste-related perspectives in the EU and Member State partnership with India;
- (af) recall the EU's principled and long-standing rejection of the death penalty and reiterate its plea to India for a death penalty moratorium with a view to the permanent abolition of capital punishment;
- (ag) welcome the adoption by India of a national action plan on business and human rights in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; deepen cooperation with India on this, including on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and International Labour Organization conventions; recalling the responsibilities of all companies to respect human rights in their value chains, encourage India to participate actively in the ongoing negotiations on a UN binding treaty regulating business enterprises under international human rights law;
- (ah) ensure that operations of EU-based companies in or with India are strictly in line with relevant EU legislation, including the future directive on corporate sustainability and due diligence and the future regulation on forced labour; take steps to ensure that all EU-related business activities involving extractive industries include a robust and fair consultative framework which conforms with the right to free, prior and informed consent of any indigenous peoples impacted; urge India to ratify the UN Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol thereto and the UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;
- (ai) encourage India to further support international justice efforts by adhering to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
- (aj) upgrade the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue to a bi-annual, headquarters-level dialogue and strive to make it meaningful through high-level participation, setting concrete commitments and benchmarks for progress, addressing individual cases as per the EU guidelines on human rights dialogues; facilitate the holding of an EU-India civil society dialogue ahead of the intergovernmental dialogue; strengthen the linkages between the dialogue and cooperation in multilateral fora; ensure that the European External Action Service regularly reports to Parliament on results achieved;
- (ak) reiterate that any FTA with India should be based on a prior, thorough, effective and comprehensive human rights and sustainability impact assessments conducted by both

sides, with particular consideration for the potential impact on the most vulnerable groups; include and consult in a meaningful manner civil society organisations, including trade unions and human rights defenders during the negotiations for any major bilateral agreement; reiterate the need to act on Parliament's long-standing position on the importance of an enforceable and robust Trade and Sustainable Development chapter aligned with the Paris Agreement;

- (al) work towards the achievement of common and mutually beneficial objectives on trade and investment that could contribute to economic growth and innovation while complying with and contributing to respect for human rights, including labour rights; promote the fight against climate change and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030;
- (am) make best use of India's commitment to multilateralism and an international rules-based trading order; promote India's decisive role in the ongoing efforts to reform the WTO;

Connecting on climate, energy and digital issues

- (an) welcome the EU-India Connectivity Partnership and the commitment it includes to supporting sustainable digital, transport and energy networks, the flow of goods, services, data and capital and the exchange of people, contributing towards the wider EU Global Gateway strategy; note that the Connectivity Partnership has become one of the most important aspects of the EU-India partnership; take note of the EU's commitment to the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment launched at the G20 in New Delhi and stress that it should be properly coordinated with the Global Gateway as well as with the G7 Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment; insist on a rigorous assessment of the sustainability and human rights impact of projects funded through the partnership, including their commercial viability and transparency, ensuring a level-playing field for businesses and respect for human rights, labour rights and environmental standards;
- (ao) enhance cooperation on climate and energy issues with India as a key partner in the global fight against climate change and biodiversity degradation and in a green transition towards renewable energy and climate neutrality, with due regard to their impact on the most vulnerable; recognise that India is providing an important example for the world by showing that simultaneously combating climate change and pursuing a development agenda is possible;
- (ap) lead by example on how gender equality and the rights of indigenous communities are prioritised when implementing biodiversity targets; encourage joint partnering in promoting an ambitious common agenda and global action on biodiversity; engage with India on the challenges of global commitments on deforestation, of rapid urbanisation and industrial development;
- (aq) welcome India's leadership and expansion of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, encouraging global investment and coordinated policy on climate and disaster resilience; welcome the fact that both the EU and European Investment Bank are now members of the coalition, contributing therefore to the EU-India Connectivity Partnership and the implementation of the EU Global Gateway Strategy;

- (ar) welcome and call for further progress on the EU-India Clean Energy and Climate Partnership on renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate change, bearing in mind that India's energy needs are set to more than double in the next 20 years; encourage further investment in India in order to provide secure, affordable and sustainable energy, with a view to India achieving its ambitious renewable energy targets; continue efforts to further develop EU-India cooperation on solar energy and hydrogen; engage with India on sustainable development and environmental risks, in particular with regard to green investments, air pollution and quality and management of water resources; provide technical assistance in this regard; jointly address impacts of Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism;
- (as) step up engagement with India on health emergencies, pharmaceuticals and digital health innovations for universal health coverage, as it is the largest producer and exporter of generic medicine and an active player on global health matters in multilateral fora; act on the commitment to strengthen cooperation on health research and innovation; increase efforts to find a swift solution, without compromising on content, to universal access to affordable pharmaceutical products;
 - (at) welcome the establishment and make effective use of the Trade and Technology Council; recognise the substantial potential of digital issues as part of the EU-India partnership, encompassing digital infrastructure and connectivity, digital policy, data protection and flows and cyber security; step up cooperation in high performance computing and quantum technologies, thereby enhancing technological solutions in a multitude of sectors; acknowledge that with support from India, the EU is better placed to advance global standards in the digital sector; note the differing views of the EU and India on data protection and cross-border data transfers; express concern that India links data protection with its national security, thus creating an obstacle for the alignment of Indian and European data regulation; encourage, however, work on setting shared standards that uphold privacy and data protection, provide adequate safeguards and facilitate modern trade and security relations;
- (au) cooperate with India in leading the global conversation on the safe ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) and to advance human rights-based AI; encourage collaborative efforts to set international standards and guidelines for responsible AI deployment that prioritise human rights and ethical considerations;
- (av) advance on a shared commitment not to selectively restrict or ban social media platforms, to limit freedom of expression online and impose blanket bans on internet and telecommunications access, while setting joint standards for the digital economy that should be rooted in human rights; express concern over reports about the Indian government purchasing and using spyware as well as of hundreds of fake media outlets and government-organized non-governmental organisations (GONGOs), including for targeting international institutions;
- (aw) encourage more EU-India cooperation on science and technology, in particular by creating links between European projects and Indian initiatives in green technologies, water infrastructure and digital innovation;

(ax) facilitate further EU-India mobility, including for researchers, labour migrants, students, highly skilled workers and artists, as well as people-to-people exchanges in all sectors relevant to the EU-India partnership;

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2. Instructs its President to forward this recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the legislative bodies and Government of India.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT – SUMMARY OF FACTS AND FINDINGS

The aim of this recommendation is to broaden and deepen EU-India relations by making progress in priority areas that are in the interest of both sides and the well-being of their respective citizens through enhanced cooperation in various areas, as outlined in the EU-India Roadmap 2025.

The recommendation calls for shared action and leadership in global arena on issues such as the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. The recommendation underlines the need for stronger, inclusive and rules-based connectivity between the EU and India in the areas of digitalisation, transport, climate, environment, energy and health.

The recommendation expresses its concern for the deterioration of the human rights situation and the shrinking civic space in India, and calls for the EU and India to jointly work towards safeguarding democratic and human rights of all citizens, and for human rights to be brought to the heart of the EU-India partnership.

It considers India as a key ally to the EU in the Indo-Pacific, where they share an interest to ensure free, open and rules-based international order. It recognises security and defence policy as an area of increasing importance and with high potential, particularly in terms of maritime security.

Altogether, it makes a pressing recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to strengthen the strategic partnership between the EU and India on the basis of democratic governance and international law, and to start preparing for an ambitious new partnership after the EU-India Roadmap that comes to an end in 2025.

**ANNEX: ENTITIES OR PERSONS
FROM WHOM THE RAPPORTEUR HAS RECEIVED INPUT**

Pursuant to Article 8 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure, the rapporteur declares that she has received input from the following entities or persons in the preparation of the report, until the adoption thereof in committee:

Entity and/or person
European External Action Service
Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA)
The London Story
International Dalit Solidarity Network
International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
Embassy of India to the European Union

The list above is drawn up under the exclusive responsibility of the rapporteur.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Date adopted	7.12.2023
Result of final vote	+: 37 -: 0 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Alexander Alexandrov Yordanov, Maria Arena, Petras Auštrevičius, Traian Băsescu, Anna Fotyga, Michael Gahler, Sunčana Glavak, Andrius Kubilius, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, David Lega, Leopoldo López Gil, Thierry Mariani, Pedro Marques, Sven Mikser, Alessandra Moretti, Matjaž Nemeč, Tonino Picula, Thijs Reuten, Andreas Schieder, Radosław Sikorski, Jordi Solé, Dominik Tarczyński, Hilde Vautmans, Thomas Waitz, Charlie Weimers, Željana Zovko
Substitutes present for the final vote	Özlem Demirel, Engin Eroglu, Andrey Kovatchev, Katrin Langensiepen, Ramona Strugariu, Javier Zarzalejos
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Pablo Arias Echeverría, Dace Melbārde, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Maria Spyraiki, Rainer Wieland

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

37	+
ECR	Anna Fotyga, Dominik Tarczyński, Charlie Weimers
ID	Thierry Mariani
PPE	Alexander Alexandrov Yordanov, Pablo Arias Echeverría, Traian Băsescu, Michael Gahler, Sunčana Glavak, Andrey Kovatchev, Andrius Kubilius, David Lega, Leopoldo López Gil, Dace Melbārde, Radosław Sikorski, Maria Spyrali, Rainer Wieland, Javier Zarzalejos, Željana Zovko
Renew	Petras Auštrevičius, Engin Eroglu, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Ramona Strugariu, Hilde Vautmans
S&D	Maria Arena, Pedro Marques, Sven Mikser, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Alessandra Moretti, Matjaž Nemeč, Tonino Picula, Thijs Reuten, Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Andreas Schieder
Verts/ALE	Katrin Langensiepen, Jordi Solé, Thomas Waitz

0	-

1	0
The Left	Özlem Demirel

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention