

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

---

*Session document*

17.9.2008

B6-0442/2008

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission  
pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure  
by Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne  
on behalf of the ALDE Group  
on the preparation of the EU-India Summit (Marseille, 29 September 2008)

**B6-0442/2008**

**European Parliament resolution on the preparation of the EU-India Summit (Marseille, 29 September 2008)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Ninth EU-India Summit, which will take place on 29 September 2008 in Marseille,
  - having regard to the EU-India Strategic Partnership Agreement of 2004<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to the EU-India Joint Action Plan, adopted at the Sixth EU-India Summit, held in Delhi on 7 September 2005,
  - having regard to the proposal to negotiate a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with India,
  - having regard to the launch of the negotiations on an EU-India Free Trade Agreement in 2006,
  - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas this summit should constitute a new phase in EU-India relations and facilitate discussion on regional issues of mutual interest to the EU and India and on major global challenges such as the climate, energy and the world food situation,
- B. whereas the summit should lead to the adoption of a revised joint action plan to adapt the strategic partnership established in 2004 in line with new common concerns,
- C. whereas the summit offers an opportunity to give fresh impetus to negotiations started in 2007 with a view to concluding a maritime agreement and a free trade agreement with India,
- D. whereas the EU is India's primary commercial trading partner and a major investor in several sectors essential to the pursuit of Indian growth (energy, transport and telecommunications),
- E. whereas a Free Trade Agreement with India is currently under negotiation, but unlikely to be concluded in 2008 since the areas to be covered, in particular public procurement and services, are disputed,
- F. whereas in domestic politics India is currently facing a number of crises, such as the politico-religious tensions in Jammu and Kashmir, a series of bomb attacks by extremists, communal violence against converted Christians in Orissa, and natural disasters in the north east,

---

<sup>1</sup> COM(2004)430 final.

- G. whereas India has made enormous progress in providing food security for its people; whereas, however, a sizable share of the population still lacks access to sufficient quantities of food; whereas poverty remains a problem in that nearly a third of the country's population lives below the poverty line,
- H. whereas the EU and India constitute the biggest democracies in the world and are open societies,
- I. whereas India and Pakistan have engaged in continuous dialogue since the beginning of 2004 with a view to putting an end to some of the disputes facing them,
1. Declares its intention to contribute to a further deepening of the relationship between the EU and India and improvement of the EU-India strategic partnership;
  2. 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; welcomes India's willingness to engage in negotiations on a new partnership and cooperation agreement with the EU; believes that the speedy conclusion of such an agreement will improve the quality of the mutual relationship;
  3. Welcomes the review of the 2005 Joint Action Plan, and hopes that it will set clear priorities and deadlines for the activities agreed;
  4. Is seriously concerned about the failure of the July WTO talks, which could jeopardise the successful outcome of the Doha Development Agenda and, in turn, undermine the multilateral trading system; urges India and the EU, therefore, as key WTO members, to play a leading role in successfully closing the deal before the end of the year so that the Doha Development Round can be concluded in 2009, with an outcome that gives real meaning to development;
  5. Expresses its overall concern after the recent Ossetia crisis about the growing dangers of new polarisation, and calls on India – in view of its historic role as a 'non-aligned' country and its growing economic power – to take adequate initiatives and launch a peace-building strategy in order to set the seal on its role as a major actor in the international field;
  6. Considers that the world can be made a safer place through international relations based on multilateralism and respect for international law, and urges the EU and India to put into practice the multilateralism in international relations that they both advocate and to set up a mutual consultation mechanism;
  7. Regrets the outbreak of riots in Kashmir in August 2008 and recommends that the authorities take all steps to de-escalate the violence, so that elections can be held in Kashmir in a stable environment as soon as possible;
  8. Recommends that the Indian Government and the State Government of Orissa put an end to the violence in Orissa and recalls the obligation under the relevant international human rights law, which India has ratified, to ensure that similar violence used to suppress Dalit empowerment does not occur again;

9. Stresses that the increasing environmental destruction in India is a constantly growing problem, and stresses the particular urgency of pressing ahead with EU cooperation with India in this field while pursuing its development needs and objectives in a reasonable manner compatible with sustainable development;
10. Urges, in particular, the Commission, the Member States and India to increase cooperation in the field of renewable energies;
11. Stresses that India's food security remains an area of concern; calls on the Indian Government to bridge the demand-supply gap by accelerating the pace of domestic production of food grains and ensuring public and private investment, the introduction of new technologies and crop diversification;
12. Is deeply concerned at the disaster caused by floods in north east India, affecting in particular the state of Bihar, but also neighbouring Nepal and Bangladesh; deplors the fact that the disaster has claimed huge number of victims and left more than one million homeless; welcomes the granting of emergency aid by the EU, but considers that the amount of one million euro is insufficient and needs to be considerably increased, given the extent of the flooding and the damage caused; appeals to the Indian administration and to the international community for more emergency assistance;
13. Welcomes the founding of the Indian Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, while remaining deeply concerned about the plight of the wild tiger, and calls on India to protect tigers from habitat loss and trafficking by transnational criminal networks; calls for specific EU assistance for this conservation effort in the form of both technical expertise and financial support;
14. Welcomes the fact that the strategic partnership provides for the extension and institutionalisation of the human rights dialogue;
15. Welcomes, with regard to respect for human rights, India's cooperation with the UN Human Rights Council, but regrets that India has not yet ratified the international Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; urges the Indian Government immediately to abolish the death penalty by imposing a moratorium on executions; encourages the Indian Government to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; urges India to sign up to the International Criminal Court;
16. Supports the Indian Government's efforts to guard against the emergence of interethnic, interreligious and intercultural tensions among communities, which would jeopardise the country's secular heritage of tolerance and coexistence;
17. Deplores the series of attacks that India has recently suffered, both on its own territory and in Afghanistan, notably the latest bomb attack of 13 September in the Indian capital, which killed at least 18 people and was perpetrated by a militant group; expresses its concern that the long-running violence in the Himalayan region of Kashmir, the country's only majority Muslim state, now appears to be spreading;
18. Welcomes of the approval by the Nuclear Suppliers Group of the US-India civil nuclear

accord (and of India's unilateral declaration of its intention to abide by its non-proliferation commitments and to uphold a voluntary moratorium on testing atomic weapons);

19. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Government and Parliament of India.