

**Question for written answer E-003949/2021**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Roman Haider (ID)**

Subject: India's geopolitics

India is the world's second most highly populated country and is predicted to move into first place by 2050. It is also involved in border disputes with neighbouring Pakistan and China – both, like India, nuclear powers – over Kashmir and in the Indian Ocean. The government in New Delhi therefore feels compelled to modernise its armed forces, which have traditionally favoured strength in numbers over firepower.<sup>12</sup>

1. Will the Commission be putting the Union forward as an attractive trading partner, or does it prefer to leave the deals completely in the hands of Russian and American companies, as it has done in the past?
2. Is there a long-term strategy for the way in which the EU positions itself as an internationally-recognised player towards India both in such border conflicts and in general terms?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kas.de/de/web/auslandsinformationen/artikel/detail/-/content/zwischen-wetttruesten-und-allianzbildung>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/china-und-indien-wie-zwei-nachbarn-um-den-indischen-ozean.724.de.html?dram:article\\_id=493283](https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/china-und-indien-wie-zwei-nachbarn-um-den-indischen-ozean.724.de.html?dram:article_id=493283)