

The Indo-European Research and Innovation Partnership
Shared Vision & Pathways

While both Europe and India are increasing their capacities to innovate in a world of keen competition, **Mr. Morten Østergaard**, Danish Minister for Science, Innovation and Higher Education representing the current EU Presidency, **Mr. Vilasrao Deshmukh**, Indian Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, **Ms. Máire Geoghegan-Quinn**, EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, together with **Ms. Barbara Kudrycka**, Polish Minister of Science and Higher Education representing the past EU Presidency and **Mr. Stavros Malas**, Cypriot Minister of Health representing the incoming EU Presidency met in Brussels on 31 May 2012 to strengthen their commitment to the long-term Indo-European Research and Innovation Partnership involving India, the EU and its Member States.

Shared Vision

Societal challenges are increasingly global and complex and require research and innovation efforts that are often beyond the capacity and means of individual countries. Realising that global partnership offers valuable tools for harnessing strengths in leveraging research and innovation into societal and economic benefits. The Indo-European partnership complements, supports and builds on bilateral Member States cooperation actions with India, where it brings added value, in particular where coordinated or joint actions of the EU and Member States enable to achieve the scale and scope necessary to produce sustainable impact in addressing major societal challenges of common interest.

The Commissioner and the Ministers stressed the importance of the innovation-based growth strategies “*Innovation Union*” and “*Decade of Innovation*” in (i) creating the paths for mutual success, (ii) engaging with both public and private stakeholders in innovative cooperation actions, and (iii) leveraging complementary strengths of partnering entities from India and Europe.

Both India and Europe are aiming at accelerated sustainable inclusive growth wherein innovation plays an important role and win-win Indo-European collaborative actions can be engaged. This could imply mobilizing industrial partners – with particular attention to SMEs – in the Indo-European research and innovation cooperation, addressing improved framework conditions and ensuring a level playing field.

Pathways

Stressing the importance of the Joint Declaration on Research and Innovation Cooperation signed at the 12th EU-India Summit of February 2012, the Commissioner and Ministers underlined the three pillars of the Indo-European Partnership: (i) larger scale, scope and impact, (ii) focus on common societal challenges and (iii) enhanced synergies between India, the European Union and its Member States.

They took note and considered the following steps to be important for developing this Partnership:

- *Jointly define the scope and develop a Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda – a White Paper - on a medium to long term India-EU/Member States Partnership* for accelerated sustainable and inclusive growth, and new pathways focusing on societal challenges of common interest (such as sustainable environment and water, bio-economy, agriculture, energy and transport, health, ICT) as well as covering the whole innovation chain from research to development and the deployment of innovative and affordable solutions. This *White Paper* may also address improved framework conditions to facilitate and encourage bottom up cooperation between stakeholders on both sides with or without public funding, including mobility of researchers, as well as to ensure a level playing field (ownership and access to IPR in collaborative research activities, standards, regulations).

It will build on the work done by the EU and Member States Strategic Forum for international S&T cooperation (SFIC), taking into account the outcomes and recommendations of the 31 May-1 June EU/MS-India Stakeholders' Conference, and further consultations with relevant Ministries and stakeholders.

- *Establish a Group of Senior Officials (GSO)* composed of officials from India, the Member States and the European Commission with a view to streamline the governance of Indo-European cooperation in its bid to identify the most effective mechanisms to provide solutions to major societal challenges of common interest. The GSO could help guiding, coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Indo-European partnership. The GSO may, where appropriate, make optimal use of available tools and resources of Member States, EU and Indian programmes and facilitate coordination of different funding mechanisms so as to reach optimal scale and scope in India-Europe cooperation.
 - *Support setting up an industry-driven India-Europe stakeholder group for research and innovation.* This group could ensure effective involvement of industry and other research actors in defining and implementing the *Strategic Agenda*. Particular attention may be given to promote cooperation between European and Indian SMEs notably for the co-development and for deployment of affordable and innovative products and services.
 - *Organize a Ministerial meeting* in India in 2014.
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