



EU-India: new Trade and Technology Council to lead on digital transformation, green technologies and trade

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Today, the EU and India have strengthened their relationship as strategic partners by setting up a new Trade and Technology Council (TTC). The new TTC will deepen strategic engagement on trade and technology between both partners. This follows [the announcement](#) by President of the European Commission Ursula **von der Leyen** and Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, on 25 April 2022 in New Delhi. It will be co-chaired on the EU side by Executive Vice-Presidents Margrethe **Vestager** and Valdis **Dombrovskis**, and on the Indian side by Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.

Working Groups

In a rapidly changing geopolitical environment, the EU and India have a common interest in ensuring security, prosperity and sustainable development based on shared values. The TTC will provide the political steer and the necessary structure to coordinate approaches and advance technical work. To lay the groundwork, both sides have agreed to work on critical areas such as connectivity, green technologies and resilient supply chains.

Ministerial meetings of the TTC will rely on the preparatory work of three working groups, which will meet within two weeks to organise their work:

- **Strategic technologies, digital governance and digital connectivity:** the group will work jointly on areas of mutual interest such as digital connectivity, Artificial Intelligence, 5G/6G, high performance and quantum computing, semiconductors, cloud systems, cybersecurity, digital skills and digital platforms.
- **Green & clean energy technologies:** this group will focus on green technologies, including investment and standards, with emphasis on research and innovation. Areas to be explored could be clean energy, circular economy, waste management, plastic and litter in the ocean. It will also foster cooperation between EU and Indian incubators, SMEs and start-ups.
- **Trade, investment and resilient value chains:** the group will work on the resilience of supply chains and access to critical components, energy, and raw materials. It will also work to resolve identified trade barriers and global trade challenges by promoting cooperation in multilateral fora. It will work towards promotion of international standards and cooperation on addressing global geopolitical challenges.

The three strands of bilateral negotiations on trade, investment and geographical indications will continue separately from the TTC. The [High-level Trade & Investment Dialogue](#) will remain the principal organ for steering these negotiations. In addition, the [EU-India High-level Digital Investment Forum](#) (DIF) may be organised on the margins of the first TTC Ministerial meeting.

Next Steps

Ministerial meetings of the TTC will take place at least once a year, with the venue alternating between the EU and India. As of today, the three working groups are established and will begin their cooperation. The first EU-India ministerial meeting is planned to be held in spring 2023.

Background

The partnership with India is one of the most important relationships for the upcoming decade and strengthening this partnership, including through the TTC, is a priority. The cooperation in the TTC should focus on key issues of shared strategic importance, including trade, trusted technology and security, notably in respect of challenges posed by rival governance models. In this context, cooperation on research and innovation are important to unlock potential.

The EU-India Trade and Technology Council is the second such bilateral forum for the EU and the first

one established with any partner for India. The EU and the US [launched a TTC](#) in June 2021. It will complement the [Digital Partnerships](#) already launched with Asian partners as part of the [EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific](#).

For More Information

[EU-India TTC Joint Statement](#)

[EU-India TTC Terms of reference](#)

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Quotes:

Strengthening our cooperation with India will benefit all EU and Indian citizens alike. Together, we will work towards a democratic model of technological development that drives innovation and puts people at the centre.
Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice-President for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age - 06/02/2023

The EU and India share a deep commitment to ensuring a trade and technology landscape that generates economic gains for our people and companies, underpinned by democratic values. Working together in this new forum will build our bilateral trade relationship, which still has strong potential for growth – while providing a platform for shared leadership on global trade challenges. We expect the EU-India TTC to play a central role in making our economies greener, more prosperous and more competitive.
Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President and Commissioner for Trade - 06/02/2023

Press contacts:

[Johannes BAHRKE](#) (+32 2 295 86 15)
[Miriam GARCIA FERRER](#) (+32 2 299 90 75)
[Charles MANOURY](#) (+32 2 291 33 91)
[Roberta VERBANAC](#) (+32 2 298 24 98)

General public inquiries: [Europe Direct](#) by phone [00 800 67 89 10 11](#) or by [email](#)