

ROADMAP

Roadmaps aim to inform citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's work to allow them to provide feedback and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Citizens and stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to share any relevant information that they may have.

TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE	Elements for an EU Strategy on India
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	EEAS ASIAPAC 1
LIKELY TYPE OF INITIATIVE	Joint Communication
INDICATIVE PLANNING	Q3 2018
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india_en/670/India%20and%20the%20EU

This Roadmap is provided for information purposes only. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the Roadmap, including its timing, are subject to change.

A. Context, problem definition and subsidiarity check

Context

The last Commission Communication on India dates from 2004. The EU-India Strategic Partnership has evolved since then and has seen enhanced commitment by both sides over the last two years. An ambitious Agenda for Action 2020 was adopted jointly at the 2016 EU-India Summit. At the October 2017 Summit, the two sides recognised each other as strategic partners with a common vision of global governance, shared values and principles.

The EU is India's first trade partner, a key player in achieving India's modernisation goals, and a stabilising power in today's challenging global order. India is an important political and economic partner for the EU, with considerable potential to contribute to global prosperity and security. A new and ambitious Strategy is needed to maximise the opportunities that the EU's evolving relationship with India can offer, and to assert the EU's status as a fully-fledged partner. The 2018 Commission Working Programme therefore proposes to enhance the framework of cooperation with India. Elements for a new EU strategy on India will be put forward by the Commission. Together with Council conclusions, this should form the new EU Strategy on India.

Issue

A new India strategy should further develop the EU-India Strategic Partnership, and contribute to the realisation of its full potential. It should build upon recent developments to increase EU participation in the process of India's modernisation, and invigorate the engagement of both the EU and India towards a common response to global environmental, economic, and security challenges.

India plays a greater role in world affairs and the country's importance as a partner for the EU has grown. The EU's own profile as a global and security actor has considerably risen, not least with the deepening of the defence cooperation among EU Member States. A new EU Strategy towards India will contribute to draw more from this relationship taking into account the impact of India on the priorities set out in the EU's Global Strategy, as well as the overall priorities of the European Commission, also in terms of ensuring the security and prosperity of our citizens.

India is an increasingly important economic player. The EU is India's largest trading partner, while India is the EU's 9th largest partner. The EU is the second largest investor in India, and the primary destination for Indian foreign investment. There is still significant room to improve trade and economic links, investment flows and investment protection, and to harmonise the level of market access on both sides, on the basis of reciprocity. The EU should also seek ways to engage more efficiently with India at the multilateral level.

The EU has a strong interest in the success of India's domestic reforms, which aim at sustainable modernisation. The EU has important expertise to offer, which has to be better promoted and leveraged. Areas include public health, welfare systems, employment, education and vocational training, urban planning, infrastructure, technological innovation, water, sustainable development, renewable energy, and environmental preservation.

India is an important partner in promoting inclusive, coherent and rules-based global governance. Coordination should be enhanced at the UN (including on human rights) and G20. The EU and India are already building a strong partnership on climate change, and more could be done to support our common interests in promoting sustainable development, with concrete action.

Basis for EU intervention (legal basis and subsidiarity check)

The EU has the critical mass to enhance a meaningful partnership with India to address challenges of mutual concern such as climate change, environmental protection, energy security, social cohesion, innovation and economic opportunities.

An EU-wide coordinated strategy will bring the necessary clout and (economic) leverage that is needed to address issues of bilateral as well as global concern. The Communication will be consistent with the partnership developed by EU Member States and will highlight the EU's added value compared to Member States acting alone. The Communication will clarify the main objectives and orientations of EU policy as a basis for a coordinated EU position.

B. What does the initiative aim to achieve and how

The Communication aims at presenting elements for an enhanced EU Strategy on India. Its main policy objectives will be to: (i) to increase the effectiveness of the EU as a global actor and serve the EU agenda for jobs and growth, in line with the Commission's policy guidelines; (ii) to define the EU's own interests in its evolving relationship with India; (iii) to propose how those interests can best be promoted/identify possible synergies between different areas of cooperation and look for EU leverage; (iv) identify new areas of cooperation with India in an increasingly challenging world - particularly on global governance, international laws and standards - by building on our common values; and (v) to balance EU's engagement with all its Asian strategic partners.

The Communication will set concrete objectives for enhancing EU-India cooperation and will contain operational conclusions that will propose specific actions and initiatives to reach these objectives.

C. Better regulation

Consultation of citizens and stakeholders

The consultation strategy follows an inclusive and thorough approach, attributes a key role to the EU Delegation in New Delhi, and includes, inter alia, the following: all Commission services are being consulted; EU Member States are fully involved with convocation of experts and discussion/information points at all levels of relevant Council working groups; experts and NGOs are being consulted on an ad hoc basis, during seminars or via individual meetings; citizens and other potential stakeholders are invited to provide a feedback on this Roadmap (the roadmap will be open for feedback for one month, replies can be made in any of the 24 official EU languages); there will be an outreach towards the European Parliament, taking into account the EP report on EU's political relations with India which has requested the preparation of a new EU Strategy on India (adopted by AFET Committee on 28/06/2017). The consultation process will continue until June 2018.

Evidence base and data collection

The data collection process will include reviews of internal reports and analysis; the existing academic and think-tank literature on EU-India relations will be consulted; reports of chambers of commerce, relevant data from Eurostat, Indian statistical sources, the European Investment Bank, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and UN agencies will also be reviewed.

An Impact Assessment is not required at this stage as the Communication will be mainly a policy orientation document. It is not expected to commit any EU funds, and will not be legally binding. If there are subsequent concrete policy decisions or initiatives following this Communication, impact assessments would be undertaken as necessary.