



Paper III.1

Proposal for a high level report on the establishment of a joint India-EU mechanism for enhanced cooperation on climate change, energy security and clean development

Institutions & Effectiveness

The EU and India are Strategic Partners with a well-established political dialogue conducted through regular Summits and a wide-ranging Joint Action Plan on political, trade, economic, cultural, civil society and development issues agreed at the 6th Summit in 2005. However, the existing institutional structure has not proved strong enough to bring about the urgent action needed given the seriousness of the challenges of energy security and climate change. It is proposed therefore to produce a report, after consultation with the Indian Government and Parliament, Governments and Parliaments of the European Union, the Commission and Parliament of the European Union, existing bilateral organisations (see Annex 1) and civil society in both sub-continent, outlining the institutional requirements necessary for practical and dynamic enhanced cooperation.

The EU and India recognize that the fight against climate change is closely linked to the fight against poverty, inequality and exclusion. They recognize that progress towards a low carbon economy must go hand in hand with improving conditions for the poorest. To this end, the EU and India have established a joint work programme on energy, clean development and climate change which is carried out through many practical initiatives and working groups.

Bearing in mind all of the above, but mindful of the urgency of climate change and the necessity of lifting the poorest out of poverty, the report will examine how India and the European Union might strengthen their political cooperation and practical action through the establishment of a joint mechanism charged with proposing a programme of action to support India in developing a sustainable post-carbon economy based on the efficient use of clean or renewable energy as prefigured in India's national plan.

The terms of the report would include:

- an analysis of the scope for joint initiatives and joint programmes in the field of clean and renewable energy, most specifically solar energy programmes, the elimination of black carbon, as well as the expansion of adaptation projects.
- the scope and terms of reference of a possible Joint Secretariat;
- how to maximise the effectiveness of existing EU-Indian institutions, most especially the annual EU-India Summit and ways in which they can contribute more effectively to tackling the effects of climate change;

- an examination of existing barriers to practical action within the EU and India on issues such as Intellectual Property Rights and technology transfer or investment for clean development, adaptation and mitigation.
- the potential for private investment and joint European-Indian partnerships in the field of clean and renewable energy;

Benefits

Strengthening cooperation and removing barriers between Europe and India would unleash talents and resources to tackle poverty and climate change together. A joint mechanism, comprised of an equal number of appointees from India and the EU, would have the potential to solve problems and overcome practical difficulties and add a new and effective dynamic to normal bilateral diplomatic relations. A Joint Secretariat, accountable to both the Indian government and the Commission and Council of the European Union and able to seek the advice of an India-EU parliamentary group, could assist the governments of India and the EU in identifying key energy and climate change objectives. It would also be able to assist in preparing a comprehensive agenda for the annual EU-India summits and ensure that decisions taken are fully implemented.

Most importantly, a joint mechanism would be able to identify projects that could be tackled jointly, engage the private sector in both the EU and India and create a new sense of understanding of the interaction between climate change and India's economic growth which would benefit from joint action.

Timetable

The report would be undertaken by Action for a Global Climate Community, with the support of the Commission of the EU and the Indian government, to whom it would be given, once completed, in time for the next EU-India summit, due to take place in Delhi in the autumn of 2009.

Annex I

Progress towards EU-India enhanced cooperation

The EU and India are determined to reach “an ambitious and comprehensive agreed outcome” at Copenhagen, “in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities” (Government of India 29 Sept 2008).

The EU and India are working together in many areas, such as the

- EU-India Joint Action Plan
- EU-India Initiative on Climate Change,
- EU-India Energy Panel
- EU-India Science and Technology Steering Committee
- EU-India Coal and Clean Technologies Working Groups
- International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Co-operation
- Cooperation in Fusion Energy Research
- EU Action Plan Support Facilities for capacity building on climate change in India
- EU-India regulatory dialogue on financial services
- EU-India Working Group on engineering
- Support for business-to-business and research cooperation through a European Business & Technology Centre (EBTC)
- Dialogue on agriculture to improve productivity
- Agreement on civil aviation
- EU-India Civil Society Round Table
- EU-India Business Summit
- EU India Grid - <http://www.euindiagrid.eu/about/objectives>

For more information on joint work between the EU and India, go to:

European Commission’s unit for relations with India

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/india/intro/index.htm

European Commission Delegation to India website

www.delind.ec.europa.eu/en/index.htm



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