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JOINT PRESS RELEASE

1. The new Co-operation Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of India (which replaces the 1981 Agreement) was signed in Brussels on 20 December 1993 at a ceremony at ministerial level.

The Agreement was signed :

- for the Republic of India, by:
Mr P. MUKHERJEE, Minister for Commerce
- for the European Community, by:
Mr Willy CLAES, President-in-office of the Council
and
Mr Manuel Marin, Member of the Commission

2. In the speeches delivered on the occasion, both parties welcomed the prospects which this innovatory agreement opens up, for creating favourable conditions for a substantial development and diversification of trade and industry, given that their relations have developed well beyond the scope of the 1981 Agreement for commercial and economic cooperation.
3. The new Agreement aims to enhance and develop the various aspects of co-operation between the Community and India in order to achieve a closer and upgraded relationship.

In the Preamble of the Agreement, the Parties reaffirm the importance they attach to the principles of the United Nations Charter and the respect of democratic principles and human rights. Furthermore, Article 1 of the Articles states that: "Respect for human rights and democratic principles is the basis for the co-operation between the Contracting Parties and for the provisions of this Agreement, and it constitutes an essential element of the Agreement." This is a feature of all recent agreements concluded by the Community with third countries.

4. Co-operation will aim at:
 - further development and diversification of trade and investment, taking

into account the respective economic situations of the Community and India;

- facilitation of better mutual understanding and strengthening of ties between the two regions;
- building up of India's economic capability to interact more effectively with the Community;
- acceleration of the pace of India's economic development, supporting India's efforts in building up its economy by means of resources and technical assistance from the Community within the framework of its co-operation policies and regulations;
- development of existing and new forms of economic co-operation to facilitate exchanges and connections between the business communities, and encourage investment;
- support of environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources.

The Parties acknowledge the value, in the light of the objectives of the agreement, of consulting each other on international, economic and commercial issues.

5. With regard to trade and commercial co-operation, the Community and India shall grant each other most-favoured-nation treatment in their trade, in accordance with the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The Parties undertake to develop and diversify their trade and to improve market access, to the highest possible degree, in a manner compatible with their economic situations.

They are committed to a policy for improving the terms of access for their products to each other's markets. In this context, they shall grant each other the highest degree of liberalisation of imports and exports which they generally apply to third countries and they agree to examine ways and means of eliminating barriers to trade between them, notably non-tariff barriers.

In respect of anti-dumping or subsidies investigations, each Contracting Party agrees to examine submissions made by the other Contracting Party and to inform the interested parties concerned of the essential facts and considerations on the basis of which a decision is to be based.

6. The parties undertake to foster economic co-operation of the widest possible scope in order to contribute to the expansion of their respective economies and development needs. No sector shall be excluded a priori from the field of economic co-operation.

Economic co-operation will involve three broad fields of action:

- improving the economic environment in India by facilitating access to Community know-how and technology;

- facilitating contacts between economic operators and other measures designed to promote commercial exchanges and investments;
- reinforcing mutual understanding of their respective economic, social and cultural environment as a basis for effective co-operation.

To this end, the parties will consider such actions as exchange of information, training programmes, seminars, exchange of experts, etc.

7. In regard to industry and services, the Parties have agreed in particular to:

- identify sectors of industry on which co-operation will centre and the means to promote industrial co-operation with a heavy technological bias;
- promote the expansion and diversification of India's production base in the industrial and service sectors, including modernisation and reform of the public sector, directing their co-operation activities at small and medium-sized enterprises in particular.

The Parties agree to promote the involvement of the private sector in their co-operation programmes in order to strengthen economic and industrial co-operation between themselves.

8. On energy, the Parties recognise the importance of this sector to economic and social development and undertake to step up co-operation relating particularly to the generation, saving and efficient use of energy, including non-conventional energy such as solar energy.

9. The Parties recognise the importance of co-operation in the fields of telecommunications, electronics and information technologies which contribute to increased economic development and trade.

Without prejudice to their international obligations and their own laws, the Parties agree to take steps to reduce the differences in respect of metrology, standardisation and certification.

10. The Parties undertake to ensure as far as their laws, regulations and policies allow that suitable and effective protection is provided for intellectual property rights, including patents, trade or service marks, copyright and similar rights, geographical designations (including marks of origin), industrial designs and integrated circuit topographics, reinforcing this protection where desirable. They also undertake, wherever possible, to facilitate access to the data bases of intellectual property organisations.

11. The Parties have agreed to encourage an increase in mutually beneficial investment by establishing a favourable climate for private investments including better conditions for the transfer of capital and exchange of information on investment opportunities.

Taking into account work done in this area in relevant international fora, and recognising in particular the recent signing by India of the Multilateral Investments Guarantee Agency (MIGA) Convention, the Parties agree to support the promotion and protection of investments between the Member States of the Community and India on the basis of principles of non-discrimination and reciprocity.

12. The Parties agree to promote co-operation in agriculture and fisheries, including horticulture and food processing.
13. The Parties agree to contribute to co-operation on tourism, to be achieved through specific measures, including: interchange of information and the carrying out of studies; training programmes; promotion of investment and joint ventures.
14. The Parties have agreed to promote scientific and technological co-operation including that in high-level fields, e.g. life-sciences, bio-technology, new materials, and geo and marine sciences. To this end, they will encourage joint research products, training, dissemination of information and expertise, etc.
15. The Parties will co-operate in the fields of information and culture, both to create better mutual understanding and to strengthen cultural ties between the two regions.
16. The Community recognises India's need for development assistance and is prepared to strengthen its co-operation and enhance its efficiency in order to contribute to India's own efforts in achieving sustainable economic development and social progress of its people through concrete projects and programmes. Community support will be in accordance with Community policies, regulations and limits of the financial means available for co-operation and be in accordance with an elaborated development strategy. Projects and programmes will be targeted towards the poorer sections of the population. Co-operation in this area will also cover the promotion of employment in rural towns, and of the role of women in development.

Co-operation will concentrate on mutually agreed priorities and will pursue project and programme efficiency, sustainability and respect for the environment.

Within the framework of its programme in favour of Asian and Latin American (ALA) countries the Community will support India's development programmes, through direct concessional transfers, as well as through institutional and other sources of finance in accordance with the rules and practices of such EC institutions.

17. The Parties recognise the need to take account of environmental protection as an integral part of economic and development co-operation. Moreover, they underline their willingness to establish co-operation in protecting and improving the environment with particular emphasis on water, soil and air pollution, erosion, deforestation and sustainable management of natural resources, taking into account the work done in international fora. Particular attention will be paid to issues such as the sustainable management of forest eco-systems, protection and conservation of natural forests, prevention of industrial pollution, and protection of the urban environment.
18. The Parties recognise the importance of human resource development and agree that this should constitute an integral part of both economic and development co-operation.
19. The Agreement is concluded for a period of five years and will be renewed automatically on a yearly basis unless one of the contracting parties denounces it six months before its expiry date.

The Parties agree to retain the Joint Commission set up under Article 10 of the Agreement for Commercial and Economic Co-operation 1981.

The Parties have agreed to hold friendly consultations in the fields covered by the Agreement if any problem arises in the intervals between the meetings of the Joint Commission.

As regards provision for future developments, the Parties may, by mutual consent, expand this Agreement in order to enhance the level of co-operation and add to it by means of agreements on specific sectors or activities.

To facilitate co-operation within the framework of this Agreement, the Indian authorities will grant to EC officials and experts the guarantees and facilities necessary for the performance of their functions.

20. Two statements are annexed to the agreement regarding the generalized system of preferences and jute and coir products.

EUROPEAN UNION - INDIA POLITICAL STATEMENT

Following the signature of the Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of India on Partnership and Development and keeping in view the steadily improving relations between the European Union and India and the improvement of these relations in range and content, the European Union and India (hereinafter referred to as 'the parties') express their resolution to reinforce and intensify their mutual relations in the political, economic, technological and cultural fields.

Accordingly, the parties reaffirm their commitment to a political dialogue contributing to the establishment of lasting links of solidarity and new forms of cooperation.

The Political Dialogue, based on shared values and aspirations, will aim to :

- Underline the parties' common attachment to democracy and respect for human rights, and their common commitment to safeguarding peace and establishing a just and stable international order in accordance with the UN charter,
- Reinforce the parties' common interest in closer cooperation to promote prosperity, the commitment to economic reforms and liberalisation of the economy, free trade and the enhancement of economic stability, social progress and the development of cultural ties,
- Enable each party to consider the position and interests of the other party in their respective decision-making processes,
- Bring about mutual understanding, increase cooperation and work towards defining areas of agreement on international issues, particularly those of concern like non-proliferation and disarmament, combating terrorism, drug trafficking and money laundering, and other matters relating to peace and international stability.

The Political Dialogue between the parties will take place through contacts, exchanges and consultations, particularly in the following forms :

- Meetings at ministerial level between India on the one hand and the EU Troika on the other, with the purpose of promoting the relationship.
- Providing mutual information on foreign policy decisions, taking full advantage of diplomatic channels, including contacts in the bilateral as well as the multilateral

field, such as the UN and elsewhere.

- Development of contacts at parliamentary levels.
- Any other means which would contribute to consolidating and developing the Political Dialogue between the parties.

If and when appropriate, the parties agree to review the proposed arrangements laid out in this joint statement.

UNION EUROPEENNE - DECLARATION POLITIQUE CONCERNANT L'INDE

A la suite de la signature de l'accord de coopération entre la Communauté européenne et la République de l'Inde relatif au partenariat et au développement et compte tenu de la constante amélioration de leurs relations, en ce qui concerne tant leur portée que leur contenu, l'Union européenne et l'Inde (ci-après dénommées "les parties") se déclarent résolues à renforcer et à intensifier leurs relations mutuelles dans les domaines politique, économique, technologique et culturel.

En conséquence, les parties réaffirment leur attachement à un dialogue politique contribuant à l'établissement de liens de solidarité durables et de nouvelles formes de coopération.

Le dialogue politique, fondé sur des valeurs et des aspirations communes, tendra:

- à souligner l'attachement commun des parties à la démocratie et au respect des droits de l'homme et leur engagement commun en faveur du maintien de la paix et de l'instauration d'un ordre international équitable et stable, conformément à la Charte des Nations Unies;
- à renforcer l'intérêt qu'ont les deux parties à instaurer une coopération plus étroite afin de favoriser la prospérité, les réformes économiques et la libéralisation de l'économie, le libre-échange et une plus grande stabilité économique, le progrès social et le développement de liens culturels;
- à permettre à chaque partie de prendre en considération, dans son processus décisionnel, la position et les intérêts de l'autre partie;
- à instaurer une compréhension mutuelle, à accroître la coopération et à oeuvrer pour définir des terrains d'entente sur les questions internationales, en particulier les questions préoccupantes comme la non-prolifération et le désarmement, la lutte contre le terrorisme, le trafic de drogues et le blanchiment de l'argent, ainsi que d'autres questions ayant trait à la paix et à la stabilité internationale.

Le dialogue politique entre les parties s'effectuera par des contacts, des échanges et des consultations, en particulier:

- par la tenue de réunions au niveau ministériel entre l'Inde, d'une part, et la Troïka de la CE, d'autre part, afin de faire progresser les relations;
- par l'échange d'informations sur les décisions de politique étrangère, en tirant pleinement parti des voies diplomatiques, y compris des contacts au niveau bilatéral et dans un cadre multilatéral, comme les Nations Unies ou d'autres enceintes;

- par l'établissement de contacts au niveau parlementaire;
- par tout autre moyen qui permette de contribuer à consolider et à développer le dialogue politique entre les parties.

Les parties conviennent d'éventuellement réexaminer en temps voulu les modalités proposées figurant dans la présente déclaration commune.