

## **The 3<sup>rd</sup> EU - India Sustainable Business Dialogue**

### **A Collective Roadmap to Implement the EU-India Joint Comprehensive Strategic Agenda**

**Tuesday, 16 June 2026, 1000Hrs – 1600Hrs, Brussels**

#### **1. Context**

A new era of comprehensive and strategic partnership between India and the European Union (EU) unlocked recently with the announcement of the EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and a number of accompanying measures related to trade and sustainable development on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2026 in New Delhi. The EU-India FTA deal is being referred to as the ‘*mother of all trade deals*’, especially in an environment marred by geopolitical-geo-economic precariousness and regulatory ambiguities. Building on more than two decades of strategic partnership, this progressive partnership anchors the mutual commitment of both partners to advance structured, outcome-oriented cooperation in a complex geopolitical landscape, while reaffirming their commitment to work together as trusted and reliable partners to advance shared priorities and strengthen multilateral cooperation.

One of the key announcements accompanying the FTA was the, ‘***Towards 2030: EU-India Joint Comprehensive Strategic Agenda***<sup>1</sup> – an almanac for the next five years defining the EU-India strategic collaboration, enumerating a list of issues of common interest including – sustainability, clean tech, energy transition, supply chain resilience, digitalisation and innovation, among others. This document (referred hereinafter as the *EU-India Strategic Agenda*), is categorised into five areas of strategic collaboration between the two partners, including: (i) ***Prosperity and Sustainability***; (ii) ***Technology and Innovation***; (iii) ***Security and Defence***; (iv) ***Connectivity and Global issues*** and (v) ***Enablers across pillars***.

With these and other concomitant developments in place such as the Green Hydrogen Task Force under the EU–India Clean Energy and Climate Partnership; EU-India Resource Efficiency Initiative; etc. the European Union and India reaffirm their collective intent to achieve the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement and to deepen cooperation on environmental protection, clean energy transition, energy resilience and circular economy.

#### **2. EU-India Sustainable Business Forum**

Beginning in June 2025, Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) in partnership with leading European and Indian businesses and industry stakeholders (amfori, Tata Consulting Services – Europe and CSR Europe) co-hosted two rounds of dialogues between EU and Indian businesses and stakeholders on the need and opportunity for partnership on sustainable business parleys. These discussions have been timely and well received by stakeholders on both sides, especially in anticipation of the announcements made in January 2026 in New Delhi. At both dialogues (June 2025 and January 2026), experts from both sides asserted the need for greater visibility and

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<https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/40616/Towards+2030+A+Joint+IndiaEuropean+Union+Comprehensive+Strategic+Agenda>

awareness of opportunities that stand to emerge from pursuing collaborative sustainability initiatives linked to the priorities of the *EU-India Strategic Agenda*.

CRB will continue to co-host these dialogues in a structured manner in collaboration with like-minded partner organisations – both in Brussels and New Delhi (under the aegis of, *EU – India Sustainable Business Forum*). Following up on the two earlier dialogues, CRB is interested to co-host a third round of this dialogue on 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026 in Brussels. This note has been developed for interested partners to join CRB as a co-host of this third EU- India sustainable business dialogue.

## **2.1 Objectives**

The objectives of the planned (third) dialogue are as follows:

- To **create awareness** of specific areas of the EU - India Strategic Agenda (*Towards 2030*)
- To **assess** existing experiences of collaboration between EU and India businesses and related stakeholders across specific areas of the EU - India Strategic Agenda
- To **facilitate** potential collaborative projects/ideas between EU and Indian business and related stakeholders
- To **identify** policy recommendations for European Commission and Government of India to support effective implementation of the 'Agenda'

## 2.2 Draft Agenda

Timing	Agenda Items <sup>2</sup>
1000 to 1030hrs	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CRB</li> <li>- Co-host(s)</li> <li>- Opening Address by a Member of European Parliament (MEP)</li> </ul>
1030 to 1045hrs	<p><b>Keynote Speech</b></p> <p>Dr. Balaji, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India to Belgium, Luxembourg &amp; EU</p>
1045 to 1055hrs	<p><b>Special Remarks</b></p> <p>Libuse Soukupova, Head of South Asia Team, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA), European Commission</p>
1055 to 1210hrs	<p><b><i>Productivity &amp; Sustainability: Shared Responsibility to drive Resilient and Reliable Supply Chain</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What are the common outcomes that both Govts want to pursue? What role can businesses and Industry stakeholders play to support the strategic collaboration?</li> <li>● What key lessons (positive and negative) can be derived from existing experiences of EU and Indian businesses' (of collaboration and shared responsibility) across key sectors including – Apparel and Textiles; Agri-food; Forest-based Commodities; Building &amp; Construction; Mining &amp; Minerals; etc.?</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: TBC</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Linda Kromjong, AMFORI</li> <li>- Representative of Nordic Sustainability</li> <li>- Representative of Laudes Foundation</li> <li>- Representative of SOLIDARIDAD</li> <li>- +1</li> </ul>
1210 to 1325hrs	<p><b><i>Productivity &amp; Sustainability: Energy Transition, Resource Efficiency &amp; Climate Action partnerships</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What areas of priority in energy transition, circular economy and climate are envisaged as common outcomes for both Govts till 2030? How can businesses and Industry stakeholders support the strategic collaboration around energy transition towards a low carbon economy with a specific emphasis on integrating supply/value chains?</li> <li>● What are some lessons (positive and negative) from EU and Indian business experiences of collaboration in clean energy; sustainable mobility; sustainable urbanisation; decarbonisation; Resource Efficiency; Circular</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> All Speakers are to be confirmed (TBC)

Timing	Agenda Items <sup>2</sup>
	<p>Economy; Skilling etc., that can be built upon as well as avoided for swifter implementation?</p> <p>Moderator: TBC</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stefan Crets, CSR Europe</li> <li>- Representative of CII</li> <li>- Representative of GIZ</li> <li>- Representative of LeadIT</li> <li>- + 1</li> </ul>
<p><b>1325 to 1415hrs</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch Break</b></p>
<p><b>1415 to 1530hrs</b></p>	<p><b><i>Supporting and Advancing Critical and Emerging Technologies and Innovation, in the age of AI</i></b></p> <p>- What are the common outcomes that both Govts want to pursue that will complement each other's expertise in the era of Artificial Intelligence? What role can businesses and Industry stakeholders play to support strategic collaboration in advancing the development from AI to AGI at the intersection of sustainability driven technologies to drive a non-fossil fuel revolution as well as make emerging technologies less dependent on conventional energy systems?</p> <p>- What are some lessons (positive and negative) from EU and Indian business' experiences of collaboration in critical and emerging technologies and innovation? How are collaborative technologies poised to effect change in light of the above observations around AI to AGI and in the governance of extracting rare earths to responsible and sustainable modes of energy consumption towards achieving these goals? In what way can India balance this transition by leveraging experiences and support from EU partners?</p> <p>Moderator: TBC</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representative of TCS</li> <li>- Representative of European AI Office</li> <li>- Representative of FICCI</li> <li>- Representative of FEBI</li> <li>- +1</li> </ul>
<p><b>1530 to 1600hrs</b></p>	<p><b>Summary and Closing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amb Mikel Anzen, CSR Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden</li> <li>- Richard Howitt, Senior Adviser, CRB</li> </ul>