



Conference
11-12 November 2010



**India-EU and Member States Partnership for a Strategic Roadmap in
Research and Innovation**

Focal theme: Water and Bioresources Related Challenges

Chairpersons' Statement

The conference mobilised policy makers, administrators and stakeholders of research and innovation for exploring new ways and mechanisms for India-EU and Member States to work together more effectively and realise more fully the societal benefits flowing from the 2007 India-EU Science and Technology Ministerial Conference *Delhi Communiqué*.

It took stock of good practices in bilateral and multilateral cooperation initiatives, programmes, institutional entities and tools existing between India and the EU/ Member States and identified ways forward for a collective response in resolving global societal challenges. The solutions for water and bio-resources related challenges have been identified by all partners as one of the priorities for the development of a strategic roadmap in research and innovation cooperation.

The conference mapped out ideas and put forward recommendations (a blueprint) for the development and implementation of a strategic roadmap in research and innovation between India – EU and Member States based on:

- More effective and coordinated India-EU and Member States research and innovation activities.
- More efficient use of existing and future resources and instruments to support strategic cooperation of India-EU and Member States in addressing global societal challenges.
- Identifying **together** through appropriate mechanisms and dialogues ways to address global societal challenges, such as water related challenges, including their health, food, environment and industrial innovation related aspects.

Dr. T. Ramasami, Dr. A. Pauli and V. Rieke, the chairpersons of the event, thanked the participants for their valuable contributions and welcomed the *alliance initiative*

of this conference, which marks the beginning of the India-EU and Member States Partnership in research and innovation through new mechanisms.

They considered that the conference should be the starting point for similar events dealing with other global challenges, such as climate change, energy and food security, and global health in future.

They underlined that the recommendations of this conference will feed into the development and implementation of the strategic road map in order to build on the objectives laid down in the 2007 India-EU Science and Technology Ministerial Conference *Delhi Communiqué* as well as to further reinforce cooperation. They stated that they will continue to provide political momentum to the India-EU/Member States strategic partnership in research and innovation.

Signed at Delhi on 12 November 2010



Dr. T. Ramasami



Dr. A. Pauli



V. Rieke

Secretary

*Department of
Science and Technology
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Deputy Director General

*Directorate General for Research
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*Chairman of the
EU/Member States
Strategic Forum for
International S&T
Cooperation*

Main suggestions/recommendations which emerged from the conference sessions

Participants:

1. Recognised the importance of **working together** in S&T&I as a basis for finding the most efficient, sustainable and affordable solutions to global societal challenges, notably by
 - highlighting the need to continue to exchange information on existing and future activities as a first important step for better coordination of future bilateral and multilateral activities;
 - emphasising the importance of identifying ongoing and future research needs and priority areas for India – EU/Member States collaborative research and innovation projects and activities in order to fulfil the mandate emanating from the Dehli Communiqué;
 - considering a more coherent and structured approach in S&T cooperation by synchronising priorities, topics and deadlines for bilateral/multilateral activities, by pooling existing resources (including funding programmes) and professional expertise from India and EU and Member States in view of launching coordinated and co-funded actions and initiatives;
 - identifying the type of collaborative or institutional instruments best suited for implementing the India-EU/Member States strategic road map in research and innovation.
2. Acknowledged the broad principles¹ of the India Pilot Initiative prepared by the European Commission and the Member States in the framework of the Strategic Forum for S&T International Cooperation (SFIC) and reaffirmed the need to implement it.
3. Welcomed the EU 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development funded measures, schemes and initiatives geared to foster the strategic India-EU/Member States partnership, such as:
 - the *NEW INDIGO* ERA-NET scheme, an important coordination tool for the partnership approach, as well as the Network of European researchers abroad – Euraxess-Links India initiative, etc.

¹ Laid down in the concept paper on the India Pilot Initiative

- the "*Partnering Initiative*" which is being launched by the European Commission together with the India Department of Biotechnology, whose aim is to support enhanced networking and multilateral cooperation between India – EU/ Member States programmes in the field of bio-waste, bio-energy and biomass,
4. Recognised the importance of flow of knowledge through enhanced mobility of researchers from Europe to India and from India to Europe and stressed the added value such mobility brings when researchers abroad stay connected with their home country. Mobility and the networking of researcher should therefore be promoted and supported.
 5. Welcomed the richness of bilateral EU Member States – India cooperation in research and innovation, ranging from joint/coordinated calls to bilateral institutional entities. Such bilateral cooperation, along with the EU-India bilateral cooperation, form an essential element of this new India-EU/Member States Partnership.
 6. Acknowledged the mutual interest in continuing exchanges on best practices in innovation policy and innovation support with a view to strengthen cooperation, as for instance on clusters.
 7. Underlined the importance of connecting Indian and European small and medium enterprises to stimulate and promote development of innovative products and services as well business cooperation.