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Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

From :	General Secretariat of the Council
To :	Permanent Representatives' Committee
Subject :	Preparations of the EU-India Summit (Brussels, 10 December 2010)

Delegations will find attached a note issued under the responsibility of the Cabinet of the President of the European Council, in close cooperation with the Presidency of the Council, the Commission services, as well as the Commission and GSC services put at the disposal of the High Representative.

NOTE FOR COREPER
PREPARATIONS FOR THE EU-INDIA SUMMIT
(Brussels, 10 December 2010)

Introduction

On 10 December 2010 the EU and India will be holding their 11th bilateral Summit and first one following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. India will be represented by Prime Minister Singh. The EU will be represented by the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, and the President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Durao Barroso. The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, will also attend.

The Summit follows shortly after the G20 Summit (11-12 November), the COP16 on climate change at Cancun (29 Nov-10 Dec) and after India's election as a non - permanent member of the UNSC for a 2 years period, beginning January 1st, 2011.

The European Council Conclusions of 16 September 2010 invited the EU and the Member States to act more strategically in their relations with strategic partners, requiring a clear identification of strategic interests and objectives. In this regard Para 6.1 (on EU Asia relations) and Para 4 (on FTAs) are of particular importance.

The purpose of this note is to identify potential themes for the agenda of the EU-India Summit, linking the summit discussions to fundamental EU interests and objectives.

Key objectives

The Summit will be an important opportunity for the leaders to provide the necessary momentum to strengthen the hitherto unfulfilled potential of the EU-India strategic partnership, especially in the political field and making full use of the new capabilities that the Lisbon Treaty provides. This will follow on a successful visit by High Representative Ashton to New Delhi in June 2010, where a number of concrete initiatives in the security field were discussed.

In preparing the upcoming Summit, it will be important to set the stage for a substantial discussion on a number of carefully selected issues. The agenda should therefore be of limited length and of sufficient importance for Summit level attention, must correspond to identified EU interests and include issues where the EU-India dimension provides value added. Some items will focus on bilateral relations while others will have a global or regional dimension.

The public message should encapsulate this spirit in a short and concise joint statement by the leaders, along with a press conference.

Themes

As host, the EU will produce the first draft agenda. The agenda should be short and focussed.

The structure of the draft agenda should cover three themes: bilateral issues, global matters and issues with a regional dimension. In addition, there will be a need for flexibility to accommodate, if required, current issues.

I - Bilateral issues

The focus of the discussion at the Summit should be security related issues (including counter-terrorism, anti-piracy and crisis management) and economic issues, notably progress on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations.

On security related issues, the Summit should follow up the concrete initiatives discussed during the HR visit in June.

On FTA, despite the commitments of both parties to conclude negotiations as swift as possible - expressed in the India EU Joint Communiqué on November 2009 - difficulties still persist in several areas. An intense calendar of negotiations is foreseen prior to the Summit to cover as much as possible common ground.

II - Global issues

The discussion should focus on G20 (following the Seoul Summit), climate change/energy efficiency (after COP16/Cancun and in preparation COP17 in 2011), non-proliferation

The aim should be to re-iterate the importance of closer cooperation between the EU - India with regard to: global economic governance, building on progress achieved in Cancun, work towards a legally-binding post-Kyoto agreement; the multilateral system on non-proliferation and disarmament.

III - Regional issues

The discussion should focus on key regional issues, notably Afghanistan and Pakistan. Cooperating on regional issues (ie. stabilising the neighbourhood) is part of our partnership, as reflected in the Joint Action Programme. The aim should thus be for the leaders to have a political exchange to further anchor this ambition.

Deliverables

Already agreed with India: a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Statistical Cooperation, a Joint Declaration on Culture and the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for 2011-2013 are expected to be ready for signature in the margins of the Summit.

Desirable but not yet agreed: Joint Declaration on Counter-Terrorism (proposed by the EU), contours of the FTA, and (ongoing though unlikely in time for the summit) agreements on nuclear fission research, maritime transport and between Europol and India's Central Bureau of Investigation.

Next steps

COREPER is invited to discuss the objectives and preparations of the EU-India Summit in order to give input on what should be the EU's priorities in terms of agenda and outcomes.

COASI remains responsible for providing support to Summit preparations at Working Party level, as required. Other preparatory bodies may be invited to discuss specific issues on the agenda, including the PSC and TPC. Coreper will be informed of the state progress and will revert to the matter ahead of the Summit.

A first Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) should take place on 21 October to review preparations for the Summit. It may be followed, if needed, by a second SOM closer to the date of the Summit.