





## ‘Future of India-EU Relations’

### *Key Takeaways from India-EU Summit 2021*

May 10, 2021  
1345- 1600 hrs (IST) / 1015- 1230 hrs (Brussels Time)

			
Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia Co-Chair of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians Past President, FICCI	Amb. Santosh Jha Ambassador of India to Belgium Luxembourg & The European Union	H.E. Mr. Ugo Astuto Ambassador of The European Union to India	Mr. Sandro Gozi Member of European Parliament (D-IN) President, EU-India Association
			
Ms. Céline Calvez Member of French Parliament President, Indo- French Friendship Group	Ms. Laurence Farreng Member of European Parliament (D-IN)	Mr. Michael Gahler Member of European Parliament	Mr. Valentino Valentini Member of Italian Parliament
			
Mr. Mohan Guruswamy Chairman & Founder Centre for Policy Alternatives			

**MODERATOR**



Ms. Stefania Benaglia  
Associate Researcher  
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**ORGANISING PARTNERS**



Mr. Roney Simon  
Director, FICCI Italy  
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Mr. Dilip Chenoy  
Secretary General  
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Mr. Peter Rimmel  
Resident Representative to India  
Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung



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## Programme Overview

The EU and India are strategic partners since 2004 and the "India-EU Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025" was signed at the previous summit. The Summit held on May 8, 2021 was based on cooperation for covid response and emphasised on the untapped potential in India and the EU's relations in areas of geopolitical, geo-strategic, connectivity, climate change, healthcare and crisis preparedness.

FICCI and the India Office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in partnership with the EU-India Association organised a panel discussion titled **'Future of India-EU Relations' Key Takeaways from India-EU Summit 2021** on **May 10, 2021** between **1345- 1600 hrs (IST)** / 1015- 1230 hrs (Brussels Time) on Zoom. This was the first interaction in the series of Track II interactions involving elected representatives and industry.

The interaction witnessed the presence of FICCI SG Mr Dilip Chenoy, H.E. Shri Santosh Jha, Indian Ambassador to EU, H.E. Mr. Ugo Astuto, Ambassador of Delegation of European Union to India, Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia, Co-Chair, FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians & Past President, FICCI, Mr. Peter Rimmele, Resident Representative to India, KAS.

Mr. Sandro Gozi, MEP (Delegation for relations with India) and President, EU-India Association, Mr. Vineet Mittal, Chairman, AVAADA Group and policy experts as well as eminent MEPs from the European Parliament shared their views at the discussion.

The aim of the interaction was to present a holistic picture of India-EU global partnership built on shared values of democracy and inclusion. It deliberated upon the key takeaways of the India-EU Summit 2021.

## Glimpses



## Key Takeaways

- The renewed solidarity between India and the EU can help to drive economic recovery amid the Covid-19 crisis.
- Inter- parliamentary exchanges and dialogues between elected representatives, industry especially young entrepreneurs and policy experts, are important to create synergies and promote cooperation.
- The two sides agreed to renew negotiations on FTA and to address the issues on market access. Working Groups have been established on reforming WTO, addressing regulatory issues, and for promoting resilient supply chains.
- It is also important to address the issues of cyber security, protection of personal data and privacy for facilitating safe and secure cross-border data flows.
- India aims to reduce its carbon footprint by 33-35% by 2030 and hence it is important to cooperate on climate change, sustainable financing and investment.
- India's stance on Aatmanirbhar Bharat is important to make India a leader in clean and green energy. India should collaborate with the EU in R&D to help provide low-cost energy.
- Comprehensive Connectivity Partnership is central to Indian Foreign Policy and it can help to intensify digital partnership.
- The EU has been focussing on connectivity w.r.t the Indo-Pacific region. The EU is a major stakeholder, trading partner and investor and wants to promote prosperity and security in the region.
- The role of the private sector in promoting sustainable and transparent connectivity through private financing in energy, infrastructure, digital ecosystem and people to people connect, is crucial.
- Multilateralism is important in today's world and to ensure dialogue in a multilateral and rules- based world, there is the need for sharing information and resources, promoting academic and cultural exchanges, and enhancing R&D as also innovation.
- The need of the hour is to promote investment through PPP, create innovative financial systems, make business with the EU profitable for Indian industry.

## Opening Remarks

### Mr. Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General, FICCI

**Mr. Dilip Chenoy** noted that the dialogue is a first in the series of track II dialogues involving elected representatives and industry to retain the momentum that has been generated by the 2021 summit for deepening further the trade and economic relations between India and the EU economies.

“We are certain that our abiding and enduring relations with the EU, will hold both of us in good stead while dealing with the pandemic.”

He mentioned that the unprecedented pandemic has ravaged the systems across the world and has ushered in a new order where economies of the world are reimagining and re-curating their respective policy agendas. He remarked that the two sides need to strengthen cooperation to ensure economic stability, sustainable growth, diversity and inclusion. He talked about the agreement to re-activate negotiations for eventually signing comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. He noted that FTA would add USD 10 billion to India-EU bilateral trade and would help in ironing out obstacles and ensuring resilient medical supply chain for India and could eventually unveil a new chapter in our relations to meet competition in Indo-Pacific region.

He remarked that the EU and India, strategic partners since 2004, represent ‘unions of diversity’ sharing values and supporting a rule-based global order centered on multilateralism.

He emphasised on the need for engaging industry, policy makers, legislators, academia to help reinforce better communication and create mutual perspectives on myriad of issues.



## Introductory Remarks

**Mr. Peter Rimmele, Resident Representative to India, Konrad- Adenauer- Stiftung (KAS)**

**Mr. Peter Rimmele** remarked that India and the EU have continued to increasingly strengthen their ties, which have gone beyond strategic partnership. He noted that the 2021 India- EU Summit has opened up a unique window in economic, political and social dialogue.

He noted that EU-India summit also presented an opportunity to consider the post-Corona period as a new beginning that can be used to reshape supply chains in a more diverse and sustainable way. It has created an opening to define new pathways and forms of multilateral cooperation and partnership and has opened up the space to strengthen cooperation between our like-minded democracies.

He mentioned that in order to establish the institutions of multilateralism, it is important to jointly promote security, prosperity and stability in the Indo-Pacific. He highlighted two aspects- the digital part of the Comprehensive Connectivity Partnership; and the implications of the summit for the Indo-Pacific and the EU, with regards to future cooperation, peace and prosperity.

He remarked that the EU-India Summit has validated that digital is no longer optional and it is crucial to intensify digital partnership through joint efforts as well as to focus on digital connectivity via submarine cables and satellite networks. He highlighted that about 50 per cent of all Indians had access to the internet in 2020, whereas at the same time India represents the second largest online market in the world, hence the crucial importance of such a scaled-up cooperation becomes undeniable. He also flagged the issue of cybersecurity as an adversity of increased digitalisation. He noted that the EU-India Digital Connectivity Partnership, which also encompasses digital connectivity and creates regulatory frameworks to ensure a high level of protection of personal data and privacy, will lead to resilient and secure digital and economic ties.

Talking about cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, Mr. Rimmele mentioned that India and the EU want to reinstate a rules-based international order through a comprehensive, strategic approach towards the Indo-Pacific. He remarked that enhanced multilateral cooperation between like-minded democracies in the region will significantly contribute to fostering new synergies towards a safer, greener, cleaner, more resilient and stable world. He further noted the significance of negotiations on a comprehensive FTA between India and the European Union which is a sign of solidarity between the world's two largest democracies, in times of great economic distress.

"Intensifying digital partnership through joint efforts in strengthening digital connectivity & the Connectivity Partnership, is necessary for future cooperation between India and EU."

## Special Remarks

### Amb. Santosh Jha, Ambassador of India to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Union

"The relationship between India and the EU has an interstate element. The seeds were sown at the July Summit in 2020 when the leaders showed a greater intent to further the partnership."

**Amb. Santosh Jha** remarked that the discussion is timely as it was organised on the first working day after the Summit. He noted the dialogue between India and the EU in the past months has led to concrete initiatives.

He mentioned about the separate agreements on trade, investment and geographical aspects, which are important elements in terms of being mutually reinforcing and interlinked.

Talking about the Connectivity Partnership as envisioned by the two leaders at the 2021 Summit, he mentioned that Connectivity Partnership is central to Indian foreign policy and it covers four elements - energy, digital, transport and people to people contacts. It emphasises on partnership based on three dimensions- fostering the principles of shared values, India and EU partnership for working towards fulfilling the objectivity, and multilateral cooperation.

He emphasised on cooperation in the Healthcare sector and crisis preparedness. He mentioned that India has been helping countries across the world in providing necessary medical supplies and vaccines. He mentioned that India and EU need to work together in common areas as there is the element of solidarity and cooperation between the two.

Amb. Jha highlighted India's progress, while quoting Prime Minister Modi that climate change is the fundamental way of building India, a sustainable and Green India. He noted that EU is a partner in India's initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance and both should work towards a clean energy partnership.

He also laid emphasis on the stronger political security ties, defence cooperation and the Indo-Pacific strategy between EU and India. He remarked that while the Connectivity Partnership provides a basis for cooperation in the Indo- Pacific region but also the Maritime Security Dialogue, launched at the previous Summit, is a crucial element in India- EU relations.

## Special Remarks

### H.E. Mr. Ugo Astuto, Ambassador of the European Union to India

**H.E. Ugo Astuto** remarked that the India- EU Leader's Summit put an emphasis on the resumption of the trade and investment negotiations, address issues pertaining to market actions and on enhancing Connectivity Partnership.

In reference to the EU's support to India during the second wave of the COVID-19 crisis, Ambassador mentioned that the EU has activated the Civil Protection Mechanism and has been delivering oxygen concentrators, health supplies and medicines as an expression of solidarity to India. He mentioned that the EU has also set up Working Groups to deal with the topical issues such as reforming the WTO, resolving regulatory issues and creating resilient supply chains among link- minded partners.

"The meeting has indeed been a turning point in the India- EU strategic partnership. Solidarity must be our compass when it comes to dealing with this global challenge,"

Ambassador remarked that the Connectivity Partnership is an important achievement and a broad endeavour. He noted that India and the EU are bound by shared principles of connectivity which needs to be sustainable, both physically and environmentally, transparent and needs to have the active involvement of the private sector. He further mentioned that the European Investment Bank has signed contracts with India towards promoting sustainable infrastructure. He noted that the EU is a stakeholder in the Indo- Pacific region and has been focussing on connectivity under the new Indo- Pacific strategy and it is important to ensure peaceful development of the region.

Amb. Astuto further noted the commonality of values and stressed upon a cooperative approach towards international relations, respect for international law notably the UNCLOS as the foundation with respect to the Indo- Pacific. He remarked that both India and the EU need to prioritise green and digital transition and cooperate in COP26 in order to ensure greener economic models.

He mentioned that this transition needs to be innovative and human- centric. He also touched upon the issue of data privacy as a prerequisite for the security of networks and talked about the establishment of a Working Group on AI and Digital High Level Forum to bring together businesses, start-ups and the private sector.

He concluded by saying that India and the EU need to work together to deal with the issues of global commons and to ensure collective and mutual welfare of both.



## Welcome Remarks

**Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia, Co-Chair of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians; Past President, FICCI & Chairman, Ambuja Neotia Group**

“At FICCI, we believe that in the current situation, it is necessary to facilitate dialogues between elected representatives, policy experts and industry to create collective actions.”

**Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia** talked about the areas of cooperation, as highlighted during the 2021 summit namely, in technology, healthcare and vaccine diplomacy, climate change and connectivity partnership.

He mentioned about the various initiatives under FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians' in connecting with the elected representatives. He noted that FICCI would want to intensify these exchanges – virtually at first but it is important to start a physical dialogue once things are better in India as MPs are at the forefront of

the COVID-19 battle in their constituencies and states.

He talked about the philosophy of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ and noted that the renewed solidarity between India and the EU would help to drive economic recovery. He acknowledged the generous and swift assistance from Team Europe in providing critical supplies of oxygen, ventilators and medicines worth 100 million euros for India’s Covid-19 response along with an emergency support of 2.2 million euros.

He remarked that India and the EU have been strategic partners since long and with shared values of democracy, pluralism and rule of law, the two largest democracies should stay connected to build understanding between people and elected representatives as they are an important link in this chain.

He mentioned that the two countries have shared legislative relations since 1981. He noted that at a virtual meeting earlier this year, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla and H.E. Mr. David Sassoli, President of the European Parliament called for parliamentary exchanges for promoting mutual understanding, shared democratic values, global concerns and enhancing bilateral trade and investment.

He remarked that it is important to discuss the multitudinous aspects of cooperation as envisioned by both the leaders and understand the importance of Public-Private Partnerships, engagement between policy makers and industry.

## Remarks

**Mr. Sandro Gozi, Member of the European Parliament and Member, Delegation for relations with India; President, EU-India Association**

"The parliamentary dimension between India and the EU has a strong potential. We need to deepen our dialogue and promote parliamentary exchanges between the two democracies."

**Mr. Sandro Gozi** mentioned that the EU- India Association symbolises friendship and gives a new perspective to the bilateral relationship based on a human centric approach and mutual understanding. He noted that the members of this Association focus on tackling common issues and work together to achieve the common goals which include digital transition, climate change, gender equality etc.

He noted that India is the biggest trade partner for the EU and trade has been increasing at a rate of 72 per cent in the past years. EU is also the leading investor in India with the presence of more than 6000 European companies doing business with India. He mentioned that the EU has launched the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme for increasing mobility and the exchange of good practices and India should be a part of this.

Talking about the India- EU 2021 Summit, Mr. Gozi remarked that the Summit meant progress and the resumption of negotiation on free trade is a remarkable step. He noted that negotiations on the Investment Protection Agreement, Geographical denominations and the commitment to address market access issues, are crucial measures. He reiterated that there is untapped potential in India and the EU's relations in areas of geopolitical, geo-strategic, connectivity and climate change. He reiterated that the new geostrategic situation in Asia has mandated the EU to adopt its new Indo- Pacific strategy as a geopolitical and security measure to further strengthen our bilateral relationship. Regarding the worsening of the Covid situation in India, he noted that the EU is with India in this time of crisis and has sent emergency help and will continue to support India and its people as this is what friends should be doing.

**Ms. Céline Calvez, Hon'ble Member of French Parliament; President, Indo- French Friendship Group**

**Ms. Céline Calvez** noted that multilateralism is important in today's world. She noted that dialogue and cooperation should be held in a multipolar and rules- based world. She talked about the importance of strengthening relations with the EU in the fields of education, culture, women's rights and equality. She noted that India and EU being the two largest democracies in the world, need to work together towards championing women's causes and ensuring women empowerment in all spheres. She mentioned that the parliamentarians and members of the civil society can contribute towards achieving these goals. She noted that both sides have committed towards promoting higher education at the Summit including the Erasmus Programme to foster cultural dialogue. She also emphasised on the importance of cooperation in creative industry including film making and video games. According to her, sharing of information and resources, academic and cultural exchanges, R&D and innovation as outlined in the India- EU S&T Agreement, are important pillars of India- EU cooperation. She remarked that in this interconnected world, the Covid crisis has made mobility difficult and it is important to open frontiers for people-to-people connect.

**Mr. Valentino Valentini, Hon'ble Member of Italian Parliament**

**Mr. Valentino Valentini** spoke about G20 being an important forum of cooperation between India and the EU. He noted that Italy is the current chair of the G20 and informed about the Global Health Summit organised by Italy, Rome and the European Commission on May 21, 2020. He remarked that the meetings at the ministerial level and the Summit would reflect renewed friendship and common interests not only in terms of trade and investment but also in terms of people, planet and prosperity. He mentioned that the parliamentarians, governments, business community should work together to implement some concrete initiatives towards strengthening India- EU partnership.

**Ms. Stefania Benaglia, Associate Researcher, Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS)**

**Ms. Stefania Benaglia** talked about Connectivity Partnership and noted that connectivity is an important foreign policy tool and should be used for the advantage for all. She mentioned that the implementation of this partnership can only be done with the help of both private and public sectors. She noted that connectivity is in the DNA of the European Union as it was developed from the concept of free movement of people, goods and capital. The EU adopted the Connectivity Strategy for Asia in 2018 with the aim of providing a sustainable and value-based alternative to the BRI. She opined that this partnership in connectivity can neither be achieved through the efforts of one single actor nor by putting millions of dollars but through the investment of creating returns and stimulating the participation of the private sector. She reiterated that there is a need for PPP for creating innovative financial systems.

**Mr. Mohan Guruswamy, Chairman & Founder, Centre for Policy Alternatives**

**Mr. Mohan Guruswamy** noted that India made its political commitment to the EU in the 60s but it has been a work in progress for India due to the sudden shifts in international politics over the decades. He pointed out that investment always flows for returns and seldom for altruism. He noted that India's investments are on par with EU's investment in India and India is a net exporter of capital to Europe. He noted that Europeans will invest in India only when there is economic opportunity and there is the need for increasing Indian investments to the EU. He opined that FICCI as an industry association will help to make the system de-bureaucratized and speed it up to make business with the EU profitable for Indian industry.

**Mr. Vineet Mittal, Chairman, Avaada Group**

**Mr. Vineet Mittal** spoke about joint collaborations with DEG, FMO & Proparco and their active role in undertaking various initiatives with Avaada during the COVID-19 crisis. These European Developmental institutions are a great example of institutions which want to make their investee company successful by mentoring them, encouraging them and they reflect the true essence of India- EU partnership. He mentioned that they also are committed towards community building as they helped Avaada to set up labour colonies like independent buildings at construction sites which made it easier to retain labour during the crisis.

He noted that India and the EU should further strengthen their relations by focussing on R&D where the EU can set up research institutes that can fulfil the energy needs of the country at the lowest possible cost. He further noted that the EU and India should collaborate on debt partnership where the EU can invest money into India and get better returns.

## Discussion

### **Q: What are the impediments w.r.t the FTA between India and the EU?**

A1: The negotiation of the India- EU FTA will happen in parallel tracks with the negotiation of India- UK FTA. There is a track record of India in terms of negotiating a trade deal and then of pulling out (be it in terms of RCEP,) which was a strong signal for all partners. Hence, one will have to look at the process as trade negotiations are getting complex while a trade agreement is equally significant in a geo-political and geo-economic context. But the outcome that will come out of the joint trade agreement, would be a sustainable one.

A2: Since the roadblocks that existed earlier are still there and one will have to look at the agriculture or other sectors, not from a holistic perspective, but try to cover the aspects where there is agreement. The two sides will have to rethink on some issues and try to settle them one by one.

## Social Media Coverage







## **‘Future of India-EU Relations’**

### ***Key Takeaways from India-EU Summit 2021***

**Monday, May 10, 2021**

**1345- 1600 hrs (IST) / 1015- 1230 hrs (Brussels Time)**

#### **Draft Programme**

<b>Time (IST)</b>	<b>Programme Flow</b>
<b>1345 hrs: Logging in and familiarisation with the agenda</b>	
1400- 1405 hrs	Webinar Commences: e-introductions and welcoming the panel <b>Moderator- Mr. Roney Simon</b> , Director, FICCI Italy; VP, EU- India Association
1405- 1410 hrs	<b>Opening Remarks</b> by <b>Mr. Dilip Chenoy</b> , Secretary General, FICCI
1410- 1415 hrs	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> by <b>Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia</b> , Co-Chair of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians; Past President, FICCI & Chairman, Ambuja Neotia Group
1415- 1420 hrs	<b>Remarks</b> by <b>Mr. Peter Rimmele</b> , Resident Representative to India, KAS
1420- 1430 hrs	<b>Keynote Remarks</b> by <b>Mr. Sandro Gozi</b> , Member of the European Parliament and Member, Delegation for relations with India; President, EU-India Association
1430- 1435 hrs	<b>Special Remarks</b> by <b>Mr. Vineet Mittal</b> , Chairman, Avaada Group
1435- 1455 hrs	<b>Special Remarks by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Amb. Santosh Jha</b>, Ambassador of India to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Union</li><li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Ugo Astuto</b>, Ambassador of the European Union to India</li></ul>
<b>1455-1600 hrs: Interactive Session</b> moderated by Mr. Roney Simon	
1455-1535 hrs	<b>Remarks by Elected Representatives and Policy Experts:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ms. Céline Calvez</b>, Hon’ble Member of French Parliament; President, Indo-French Friendship Group</li><li>• <b>Mr. Valentino Valentini</b>, Hon’ble Member of Italian Parliament</li><li>• <b>Ms. Stefania Benaglia</b>, Associate Researcher, Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS)</li><li>• <b>Mr. Mohan Guruswamy</b>, Chairman &amp; Founder, Centre for Policy Alternatives</li></ul>
1535- 1555 hrs	Industry interaction and Q&A
1555- 1600 hrs	Concluding Remarks

## **‘Future of India-EU Relations’**

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**Monday, May 10, 2021**

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#### **Speaker Profiles**

##### **Special Remarks**

**Amb. Santosh Jha, Ambassador of India to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Union**



Ambassador Santosh Jha assumed the position of Ambassador of India to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union on 17 July 2020. Prior to coming to Brussels, he was Ambassador of India in Uzbekistan from July 2019 to July 2020. Earlier, from July 2017 to June 2019, he served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian Embassy in Washington DC with a personal rank of Ambassador.

He also has the pleasure of serving at the Indian Embassy in Brussels earlier from 2010 to 2013, when he was the Deputy Chief of Mission. During this time, he also had the distinction of serving as Charge d' Affaires from January to September 2012.

Previously, Ambassador Jha has headed several Divisions in the Ministry of External Affairs. He has also headed MEA's Policy Planning Division, in which capacity he helped rebuild the Division into an institution capable of responding to India's growing global engagements. During this time, he was also closely associated with formulation of key Indian foreign policy initiatives and for establishment of a number of strategic dialogue forums, most notably the globally reputed RAISINA Dialogue in New Delhi.

He has served in different capacities as a diplomat in Moscow (1995-1998), Vladivostok (1998-2000), New York (2000-2004), and Colombo (2007-2010). Ambassador Jha has also served as a member of the negotiating team for the India-US nuclear agreement and was closely associated with the development of India-US relations. He also has had the experience of serving as a member of negotiating teams for Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with Sri Lanka and the European Union respectively. He is also credited with helping erect the architecture for development cooperation between India and Sri Lanka following the end of civil conflict in that country in 2009.

**H.E. Mr. Ugo Astuto, Ambassador of the European Union to India**



**H.E. Mr. Ugo Astuto** entered the Italian Diplomatic Service in 1991. His career in the Italian Foreign Service spans experience in the Embassies in Nairobi and London (including as alternate Director for Italy in the EBRD-European Bank for Reconstruction and Development), in the Permanent Representation in Brussels and in the Embassy in Delhi (2008-2012), where he served as Deputy Head of Mission. From February 2013 until July 2016 he was seconded to the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels, first as Director for South and South East Asia and then as Deputy Managing Director/Director for Asia and the Pacific. From July 2016 to September 2019 he was the Principal Director for Asia in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome.

**Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia, Co-Chair of FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians; Past President, FICCI & Chairman, Ambuja Neotia Group**



**Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia** is Chairman of Ambuja Neotia Group that operates across the Real Estate spectrum alongside four verticals - Hospitality, Healthcare, Education and Start-Up Incubation. He has been instrumental in turning Ambuja Neotia into a pioneer in India's social housing sector, gifting Kolkata and eastern India world-class homes and malls, hospitals and hotels, educational institutions, and smart workplaces. A Padma Shri awardee, a connoisseur of art, and Past President of FICCI as well as All India Management Association, Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia is also the Honorary Consul of Israel in West Bengal and Co-Chair of the FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians.

**Mr. Sandro Gozi, Member of the European Parliament and Member, Delegation for relations with India; President, EU-India Association**



**Mr. Sandro Gozi** is an Hon'ble MEP and Member of Delegation for relations with India within the European Parliament. He was elected on the French Renaissance list in May 2019 after which he became an adviser to the French Prime Minister, Mr. Edouard Philippe. In February 2020, he was elected to the European Parliament post the Brexit.

He is a Member of Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, Committee on Constitutional Affairs, and Delegation for relations with the Mashreq countries. He is also a part of the Committee on Regional Development and Special Committee on Foreign Interference in all Democratic Processes in the European Union, including Disinformation.

Previously, he has served as the European Affairs Adviser to the President of the Italian Council of Ministers, as a diplomat, Member of Parliament, Secretary of State for European Affairs. He has also worked with En Marche as well as has served as the President of the Union of European Federalists party.

As an MEP, he is committed towards creating a transnational Europe, mobilising citizens, and advancing European integration.

He has published books on European issues in seven languages and have has been teaching for many years in several European and American universities.



## **Organising Partners**

**Mr. Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General, FICCI**



**Mr. Dilip Chenoy** is currently Secretary General of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). He leads the permanent secretariat of the industry chamber, which is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India, and a potent voice for policy change. FICCI represents over 2,50,000 members through Member Bodies covering all the States of India.

Before joining FICCI, Dilip served as Managing Director & CEO of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). NSDC fosters private sector investment and initiatives in training and skill development.

Dilip has also worked in several key industry organizations, including SIAM as its Director General. He was a member of the Harvard Business School project under Professor Michael Porter that worked on the competitiveness of Indian industry. With varied experiences of working in the private sector, he advises start-ups including organisations in the digital, education, skills, and livelihood space. Dilip has also served as Chairman of an Engineering Institute.

A fellow of the World Academy of Productivity Science (WAPS), he was awarded the Indian Achievers Award in 2018, The Game Changer Award in 2015 and the Rashtriya Media Ratan Award in 2013.

**Mr. Peter Rimmele, Resident Representative to India, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)**



**Mr. Peter Rimmele** is currently the Resident Representative of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office, India.

He has a First Law Degree from Freiburg University, as well as a Second Law Degree from the Ministry of Justice Baden-Württemberg, Germany, and a M.A. in Geography.

After working as, a jurist, judge, and lecturer, he took public office as Ministerialrat, Head of Division at the State Ministry of the Interior in Saxony, Germany, from November 1991 on until 2000.

There he first served in the Police and Security and later in the Local Government Department. On behalf of the German Foreign Ministry he served in East Timor as Registrar General, Head of Civil Registry and Notary Services (UNTAET), and became later the principal Advisor for Governance Reform for GIZ (German International Cooperation) to the Ministry of Administrative Reform and the Anti-Corruption-Commission of the Republic of Indonesia, where he served for 7 years. He then moved to Rwanda, also as Principal Advisor Good Governance/Justice Program. Earlier he was Resident Representative Lebanon, Director of Rule of Law Program Middle East North Africa, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

**Eminent Speakers** *(in alphabetical order)*

**Ms. Stefania Benaglia, Associate Researcher, Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS)**



**Ms. Stefania Benaglia** is Associate Researcher at CEPS. She is also a Senior Expert in the Public Diplomacy Project of the European Union Delegation to India, and Associate Fellow at the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and she consults for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Her research focuses on EU Foreign and Security policy, with specialisation on EU-India relations and more broadly on Asia.

In 2019 she has been nominated Top 40 Under 40 EU India Leader and 100esperte “International Affairs” (a selection of 100 Italian women, expert in STEM, Economy, or International Affairs).

Between 2014 and 2017 Stefania moved to Delhi, working on EU-India defence cooperation for Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. In 2009 Stefania joined the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and then the European Commission (EC), working for the Political & Security Committee (PSC) team and then representing the EC at the Political-Military Group (PMG). Previously she worked and studied also in Israel (at the International Institute of Counter-Terrorism), United States (at the Italian Embassy, at SAIS and at San Francisco State University), France (at Science Po Grenoble) and Spain (Leonardo da Vinci programme).

**Ms. Céline Calvez, Hon'ble Member of French Parliament; President, Indo- French Friendship Group**



**Ms. Céline Calvez** is a Member of Parliament for the fifth district of Hauts-de-Seine (Clichy and Levallois). A graduate in law and Celsa, she was first employed in communication agencies, before creating her own consulting company in 2011, then devoting herself fully to her duties as a Member of Parliament in June 2017.

She is the Whip of the Cultural Affairs and Education Commission, member of the National Assembly's Women's Rights Delegation. She was also appointed President of the France-India Friendship Group at the start of her term of office, as well as a member of the board of directors of Radio France for the National Assembly.

In 2018, commissioned by Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer, she worked on the transformation of the school career path, alongside Régis Marcon, and is more generally interested in the links between the educational world and the economic world.

For the delegation for women's rights, Ms. Céline Calvez is co-author of a parliamentary report on the promotion of the place of women in science.

In the fall of 2018, she became rapporteur for an opinion on the media, books, cultural industries, and public audio-visual budget missions on the Finance Bill for 2019. She keeps this report for opinion on the same budget missions for the Bill of finances for the fiscal year 2020, and 2021.

Ms. Calvez was commissioned in April 2020 by Prime Minister Édouard Philippe, under the tutelage of ministers Franck Riester and Marlène Schiappa, to work on the place of women in the media in times of crisis. On June 23, 2020, she submitted her progress report, before the final submission of the report on September 9, during a meeting with ministers Roselyne Bachelot-Narquin and Elisabeth Moreno.

**Mr. Mohan Guruswamy, Chairman & Founder, Centre for Policy Alternatives**



**Mr. Mohan Guruswamy** is the Chairman and Founder of Centre for Policy Alternatives. He had his undergraduate education in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry at Nizam College, Hyderabad, India. He has post-graduate qualifications in Public Policy, International Affairs and Management. He is an alumnus of the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and the Graduate School of Business, Stanford University. With an interesting career path that included teaching, senior management, journalism and in government as the Advisor to the Finance Minister with the rank of Secretary to the Government of India, his astute analytical expertise is well known.

Mohan Guruswamy is widely travelled in India and abroad and is the author of several books on policy issues.

He is a frequent commentator on national and international TV and Radio on matters of current interest and writes a widely read and disseminated newspaper and magazine column. His papers on Redefining Poverty, Income Inequality, Backwardness of Bihar, Economic Development in West Bengal, FDI in Retail have been published in well-regarded journals like the Economic and Political Weekly, Seminar and the Journal of Public Policy, UK.

**Mr. Vineet Mittal, Chairman, Avaada Group**



Mr. Vineet Mittal is a social entrepreneur, pioneer and evangelist of sustainable development and has been a vanguard of the clean energy transition in emerging economies across Asia and Africa. His passion for sustainability originates from the ancient Indian Vedic philosophy of ‘Mata bhoomi putro aham prithiwaya’ – The Earth is to be protected like a mother and nurtured for future generations. Avaada is a culmination of his vision of conducting business for higher purpose. Vineet’s socially beneficial public policy campaigns like Community Development Certificate (CDC) and Grow Forest Mechanism (GFM) are very well-received. In line with SDGs he has launched humanitarian programs aimed towards women empowerment, quality education, healthcare and environment protection in rural environs.

An alumnus of Harvard Business School, Mr. Mittal has successfully executed over 2GW of renewable energy projects and is implementing 5GW projects. Avaada has played a major role in helping shape renewable energy policies for emerging economies. He is on B20’s taskforce for financing growth and infrastructure and Energy, Resource Efficiency & Sustainability. He is the former India Chair of World Business Council of Sustainable Development (WBCSD)’s program on Renewables Low Carbon Technology platform. Vineet has been twice recognized as the ‘Solar Man of the Year’ in 2014 and 2012 for his significant contribution towards the solar industry.



**Mr. Valentino Valentini, Hon'ble Member of Italian Parliament**



**Mr. Valentino Valentini** is a Member of the Member, Italian Chamber of Deputies Foreign Affairs Committee, Member of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA. He has served as the MP Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee (2006-2008); MP Secretary of the Sub-Committee on the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2018); and Member of the Italian Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (2013-2018).

## **About the Partners**

### **FICCI-Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry**

Established in 1927, FICCI is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India. Its history is closely interwoven with India's struggle for independence, its industrialization, and its emergence as one of the most rapidly growing global economies. A non-government, not-for-profit organisation, FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry. From influencing policy to encouraging debate, engaging with policy makers and civil society, FICCI articulates the views and concerns of industry.

FICCI serves its members from the Indian private and public corporate sectors and multinational companies, drawing its strength from diverse regional chambers of commerce and industry across states, reaching out to over 2,50,000 companies. FICCI provides a platform for networking and consensus building within and across sectors and is the first port of call for Indian industry, policy makers and the international business community. FICCI's vision is to be the thought leader for industry, its voice for policy change and its guardian for effective implementation.

### **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung**

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) is a political foundation. Established in 1955 as "Society for Christian-Democratic Civic Education", in 1964 the Foundation proudly took on the name of Konrad Adenauer, the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

With 16 regional offices in Germany and over 120 offices abroad, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation is committed to achieving and maintaining peace, freedom and justice through political education. We promote and preserve free democracy, social market economy, and the development and consolidation of the value consensus. We focus on consolidating democracy, the unification of Europe and the strengthening of transatlantic relations, as well as on development cooperation.

The leitmotif of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation "Germany. The next chapter" is supported by a thematic focus. With the three main topics Innovation, Security and Representation and Participation, it is quite clear which topics the Konrad Adenauer Foundation will focus on in the coming years.

We cooperate with governmental institutions, political parties and civil society organizations, building strong partnerships along the way. In particular, we seek to intensify political cooperation in the area of development cooperation on the foundations of our objectives and values. Together with our partners, we make a significant contribution to the creation of a global order that empowers every country to determine its own developmental priorities and destiny in an internationally responsible manner.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung has organized its program priorities in India into five working areas:

1. Foreign and Security Policy
2. Economic, Climate and Energy Policy
3. Rule of Law
4. Political Dialogue focussed on Social and Political Change
5. Media and Youth

The India Office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation takes great pride in its cooperation with Indian partner institutions who implement jointly curated projects and programmes.

### **EU- India Association**

The Italy-India Association was a no-profit Private Law association, whose aim was to improve the cultural relations between the two countries. In December 2007, Hon. Sandro Gozi, at that time President of the Parliamentary Committee for the Control on the Implementation of the Schengen Agreement, on Europol Activities and Migration Policies, was called to replace Hon. Sergio Mattarella as President of the Italy-India Association.

Currently the Association - in consideration of the challenges that characterize the relationship with India - has decided to extend its activity to the European context. The Association wants to take up these challenges, continuing to represent a forum of exchange (institutional, economic and cultural) between the European world and the Indian world, within the path of strengthening the strategic partnership, restarted through the recent EU-India Summit that took place on the 15th of July, 2020. The new EU-India Association – officially born on the 14th of September 2020 – has the aim of enhancing bilateral relations between Europe and India and to promote mutual knowledge.

The Association promotes the creation of an "Indian system" to ensure an effective connection between the public and private sector, giving impetus to the strengthening of the relations between EU and India, since Member States needs to gain positions in the Indian market. Consistent with its mission, the Association assists European and Indian operators by favoring system initiatives that involve public and private but also by providing targeted advice to individual and companies.