

2nd CII INDIA-EUROPE BUSINESS AND SUSTAINABILITY CONCLAVE

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India organised the second edition of CII India Europe Business & Sustainability Conclave held on 20-21 February 2024. The Conclave was one of the largest congregations of senior ministers, policy makers and business leaders from European Countries and India, cutting across sectors.

Inaugural session



L to R: Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; HE Mr Krišjanis Karinš, Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Republic of Latvia; HE Mr Margus Tsahkna, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Estonia; Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India; HE Mr Giorgos Gerapetritis, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hellenic Republic (Greece); Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 2nd CII India-Europe Business and Sustainability Conclave in New Delhi on 20th February, Dr S Jaishankar, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Government of India said that Europe is truly a priority for India.

Elaborating, he said, "The Prime Minister of India has been 27 times to Europe. He has received 37 heads of European governments. I have visited Europe 29 times and I have received 36 of my colleagues.

I underline these numbers to emphasise how deep, how sustained and how continuous the relationship has been."

The minister said there are six broad elements that drive the world economy - production and consumption, connectivity and logistics, technology, demographics, values and comforts and architecture or framework to do business.

Dr Jaishankar focussed on several important issues in his address, including the importance of trust and transparency in a digital age, human skilling and mobility, the importance of concluding FTAs within the EU and EFTA countries, the role of connectivity and climate change, and the proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor.

The session included the foreign ministers of Estonia, Greece and Latvia, along with CII President, Mr R Dinesh, and CII Director General, Mr Chandrajit Banerjee.

Special Plenary Session



L to R: Mr Chandrajit Banerjee; Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, UK; HE Dr Martin Kocher, Austria; HE Mr Péter Szijjártó, Hungary; HE Mr Juraj Blanár, Slovak Republic; Shri Piyush Goyal; Mr R Dinesh; HE Dr Tobias Lindner, Germany; HE Mr Krišjanis Karinš, Latvia; HE Mr Władysław Teofil Bartoszewski, Poland.

"We believe that FTAs or bilateral agreements have to be fair, equitable and balanced. Countries across the globe need to recognise that India, as a rapidly-growing country, is poised to become a US\$ 35 trillion economy

by 2047," stated Mr Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India, at the Special Plenary Session of the 2nd CII India-Europe Business and Sustainability Conclave. The Minister added that in the next 30 years, India will offer the world a very large young population, with an average age of under 30 years. This skilled and enthusiastic pool of manpower, driven by aspirations for a better future for their families, will represent a significant demographic dividend. This young India will create opportunities, demand, and contribute to sustained growth, Mr Goyal said.

The session was also addressed by ministerial dignitaries from the Slovak Republic, Latvia, Hungary, Austria, the UK, Poland and Germany, as well as by the CII President and Director General.

The dignitaries focussed on the potential of an enhanced partnership between India and Europe through FTAs that would be beneficial for both the regions.



750+
DELEGATES



350+
INTERNATIONAL
DELEGATES FROM
35 COUNTRIES



4
FOCUSSED
COUNTRY
ROUNDTABLES



96
SPEAKERS



57
SPEAKERS
FROM EUROPE



3
THEMATIC
SESSIONS



~500
B2B MEETINGS

Leaders Speak



Dr. S. Jaishankar
Minister of External Affairs
Government of India

“

On connectivity, I think we will value working with Europe because it is important today that connectivity is collaborative, it is transparent, it is based on viable projects, it doesn't have hidden agendas, and by doing that, we will set before the world a model of how international cooperation on connectivity should work.

”



Shri Piyush Goyal
Minister of Commerce and Industry
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public
Distribution and Textiles

“

India today has a new sense of enthusiasm for manufacturing in India, and to become a hub of economic activity for other parts of the world. We offer in India a conducive business climate, focussing on ease of doing business and working with partners across the world.

”



HE Dr Martin Kocher
Federal Minister of Labour and Economy
Republic of Austria

“

The successful conclusion of negotiations of the India-EU FTA will be the key to taking bilateral partnership to its full potential. I'm hoping to see the two democratic partners forging a deep and wide relationship across economic, technological and political spectrums.

”



HE Mr Margus Tsahkna
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Estonia

“

Estonia, a digital leader with highest unicorns per capita globally, is ready to partner with India. We're open to sharing learnings and creating valuable digital public goods together, for a brighter future fuelled by technology.

”



HE Mr Giorgos Gerapetritis
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hellenic Republic (Greece)

“

I'm convinced that the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor will bring prosperity to India and Europe. Greece aspires to be an integral part of this project. Being the gateway for India to Europe, this very ambitious connectivity project will enhance the strategic importance of the region both economically and geopolitically, and promote peace and stability.

”



HE Mr Péter Szijjártó
Minister of Foreign Affairs
and Trade, Hungary

“

Nuclear is the only way to produce big volume electricity in safe, cheap and environmentally protective manner. In Hungary, we have 2,000 MW of nuclear capacity and we are increasing it to 4,400 MW. We are building two new reactors and will be able to increase our share in nuclear to 70% and decrease emissions by 17 million tonnes of CO₂ on an annual basis.

”



HE Mr Krišjanis Kariņš
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Latvia

“

The EU and India need each other, and face many similar challenges together. A country like Latvia is hungry to learn and work together with new partners such as India for developing ways for greater economic prosperity.

”



HE Mr Juraj Blanár
Minister of Foreign and European Affairs,
Slovak Republic

“

Slovakia, though small in size, is the second-most industrialised country in the EU. Our economy is significantly driven by exports, with over 90% of our production reaching international markets. Our relationship with India, our most important business partner in Asia, has seen remarkable growth over the last five years.

”



HE Dr Tobias Lindner
Minister of State
German Federal Foreign Office
Federal Republic of Germany

“

India and Germany are working hand-in-hand to tackle climate change and to achieve sustainable growth and development. And we see India as our indispensable partner in this endeavour.

”



HE Mr Konstantinos (Costas) Fragkogiannis
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Economic Diplomacy and Openness
Hellenic Republic (Greece)

“

Europe stands as India's 2nd-largest trading partner and we anticipate that this year's Conclave will serve as a platform to further enhance the outcomes achieved during the inaugural edition. Our countries have a long history of friendship and cooperation, and it is crucial that we enhance our economic connections.

”



HE Mr Władysław Teofil Bartoszewski
Secretary of State
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Poland

“

Fuelled by strong foundations of education, research and entrepreneurial spirit, Poland has cemented its status as a hub of innovation in Central Europe. This is an important opportunity for Poland and India to come together and deliberate on some areas of collaboration that are at the forefront of technology, and in which India is one of the leaders.

”



HE Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon
Minister of State (Middle East, North Africa,
South Asia, United Nations and the
Commonwealth), United Kingdom

“

We are working diligently on a very ambitious FTA and bilateral investment treaty that will benefit both our countries. This agreement will significantly boost our trading partnership, further solidifying our firm path of mutual growth.

”



HE Mr Christopher Cutajar
Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Foreign
and European Affairs and Trade,
Republic of Malta

“

It is really important to have new FTAs in place and this is how we should continue to collaborate to address barriers in trade that are currently shackling our potential. EU has an ambitious collaboration with India in solar, green hydrogen and offshore green energy. Malta will also be joining the ISA to foster such collaborations between Malta, India and members of the ISA.

”



HE Mr Rastislav Chovanec
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs,
Slovak Republic

“

The defence sector offers huge potential for cooperation for Slovak companies. This sector is important for us as we have some companies offering unique technology that hopefully can find a partner in India and become successful.

”



Mr T K Ramachandran
Secretary, Ministry of Ports
Shipping and Waterways
Government of India

“

India as a maritime nation is poised for growth and there is a lot of potential available, especially with Europe where we have identified several areas in which we are already collaborating and there is a lot of scope for collaboration in future.

”



Mr R Dinesh
President, CII and Chairman
TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd

“

Collaboration between India and Europe holds tremendous potential to drive a positive change, whether through technological innovation or in the area of sustainable development. Going forward, digital, critical and emerging technologies will drive India's growth in various sectors including agriculture, manufacturing and services.

”



Mr Chandrajit Banerjee
Director General, CII

“

The growth and sustainability track builds on the recent milestones in the relationship, including trade and technology council with the EU, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment.

”



Mr Sunjay Kapur
Chairman, CII Europe Committee
and Chairman, Sona Comstar

“

India and Europe share a significant and multifaceted relationship that spans political, economic and cultural spheres. India's trade relationship with the EU is significant. This conclave witnesses one of the largest gatherings of Indian and European political as well as business representation, further strengthening the India-Europe partnership.

”

Country Sessions

Austria



Greece



Poland



Slovak



Thematic Sessions

The Future Landscape of Business and Trade: Imperatives from FTA



The session was also addressed by H E Mr Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, the Republic of Malta; Mr Henrik Isakson, Director-Trade Policy, Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, Sweden; Mr Poul V Jensen, Managing Director, European Business Technology Centre (EBTC), Belgium; Mr Rudra Kumar Pandey, Partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, India; Mr Vaibhav Mittal, Vice President, Reliance MET City, India and Mr Sunjay Kapur, Chairman, CII Europe Committee and Chairman, Sona Comstar, India.

“For quite some time now, this is one FTA where businesses from both sides have been really looking forward to, as it offers the potential of a big win-win for both sides. There are obviously challenges in any negotiations and this is no different given the nature of both economies.”

Mr Sumanta Chaudhuri

Principal Adviser - International Trade Policy, CII, India

“Free trade agreement is essential for a company like Volvo Group. We need to address the tariffs issues, lots of things can be done there, in our supply chain, we have 90,000 companies and therefore the supply chain issue is essential. The biggest challenge in the whole value chain in the transport industry is the transition to net neutrality and going green in a sustainable manner.”

Mr Niklas Gustafsson

Head of Public Policy & Regulatory Affairs, AB Volvo Group, Sweden

Cooperation in Maritime



The session was also addressed by H E Mr Konstantinos (Costas) Fragkogiannis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Economic Diplomacy and Openness, the Hellenic Republic (Greece); Mr T K Ramachandran, Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India; Mr Georgios Prokopiou, Founder, Dynacom Tankers Management Ltd, the Hellenic Republic (Greece); Mr Sanjiv Garg, Secretary General, The Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport, India and Captain Prashant S. Widge, Head of ESG and Public Affairs, South Asia, Group Public and Regulatory Affairs, A.P. Moller – Maersk.

“There could be collaboration between Indian Ports and the Greek ports. We have 13 port authorities in Greece. We also have 80 small ports. Since 2012, our target is to privatise the ports. This was very successful. We provide a gateway to Europe through our ports.”

Mr Athanasios Liagkos

Chairman, Hellenic Ports Association & Executive Chairman, THPA S.A. (Thessaloniki Port Authority), the Hellenic Republic (Greece)

“The maritime domain stands as a cornerstone to global trade. Showcasing resilience amidst crisis, like the recent pandemic while the pandemic led to increased transit and freight prices, creating supply demand imbalances, the industry perseveres for the future.”

Mr Vaibhav Vohra

Managing Director, Continental Carriers Ltd, India

Roadmap for Cooperation in Green Energy to Meet Global Transition



The session was also addressed by Mr Ashis Basu, Chief Executive Officer, GMR Energy, India; Mr Ignacio Pastor, Managing Director, Técnicas Reunidas, Spain; Mr Konstantinos Bikas, International Business Director, Mytilineos Energy & Metals, the Hellenic Republic (Greece); Mr Rakesh Sarin, Member, CII Renewable Energy Council and President, Suzlon Energy Limited, India

“It is important to acknowledge the deep commitment in Europe and India to drive the global energy transition. We have to understand that there are challenges, if we continue with the current renewable energy rollout, that will not lead us anywhere. Significant advancements in renewable energy technologies, including solar, biofuels, and hydrogen are important to note. These technologies are viable and economically feasible options for transitioning to green energy.”

Mr Jochen Luckscheiter

Regional Director, Heinrich Boll Stiftung, Germany

“The Volvo group has a target of becoming carbon neutral by 2040. It requires three different technologies. We are betting on battery electric energy sources for full vehicle portfolio. We are looking for fuel cell electric combustion engines fuelled by biosources. This requires solid systems change. Its not only about the vehicles and the machines, because these products are already available on the market today, we need to transform the system on how to provide energy.”

Mr Karl Johan Runnberg

Head of Group Public Affairs, AB Volvo Group, Sweden

Skilling Human Resources for an Inter-Connected World



The session was also addressed by Dr Judyta Latymowicz, Lawyer, Legally Smart, Republic of Poland; Ms Vidya Basarkod, Managing Director, Ramboll India Pvt Ltd, India; Mr Dimtris Melas, General Secretary, Hellenic Indian Chamber of Commerce and Economy, the Hellenic Republic (Greece) and Mr Vipin Sondhi, Chairman, CII National Forum on Industry-Academia Partnership for R&D and Innovation, India.

“It is important to understand where we are as a country that we will be providing all kinds of workforce for the rest of the world. Some may not like it, but this is the reality. As a diplomat, I have served in different countries and also understand where the skill shortages are.”

Mr Arun Kumar Sahu

Additional Secretary, Central Europe, Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

“There is an agreement in place between Germany and India on Science and Technology since 1974. There was a joint committee on S&T. This collaboration has an emphasis on academia and industry. This collaboration is highlighted with research projects – more than 70 projects since 1998.”

Mr Stephan Halusa

Director General, Indo German Chamber of Commerce, Germany

Innovations in Mobility: The Future of Transportation



The session was also addressed by Mr Harj Dhalilwal, Chief Business and Capital Programmes Officer, Nevomo, Republic of Poland; Mr Wybren van der Vaart, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, BrightBlu, India and Mr Ravneet S Phokela, Chief Business Officer, Ather Energy, India.

“I would refer to the words of Prime Minister Modi that EIB is India's metro bank. What does it mean? We are financing already in India 6 metros in India. Lucknow, Pune, Kanpur, Agra, Bangalore and Bhopal. EIB is already contributing to modern mobility in India.”

Mr Edvardas Bumsteinas

Head of Public Sector Lending for Asia and Pacific
European Investment Bank Global, European Union

“Transportation as we all recognise plays a fundamental role in the development of nations and seamless operations of economies worldwide. It not only facilitates the movement of people and goods but has become an essential component of our daily lives.”

Mr Kamal Bali

Chairman, CII Southern Region and President & Managing Director
Volvo Group India Private Limited, India

Green Financing: Architecture for Accessible Finance



The session was also addressed by Ms Nina Fenton, Head of Regional Representation for South Asia, European Investment Bank, European Union; Mr. Uwe Gehlen, Head of German Development Cooperation in India and Minister, German Embassy; Mr Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman and Managing Director, IREDA, India; Mr Vivek Sen, Associate Director, Climate Policy Initiative (CPI), India and Mr P D Singh, Managing Director & Bank Chief Executive Officer, JP Morgan, India.

“This session is to dive deep into the burgeoning momentum of green finance in the Indian economy, positioning it as a pivotal tool for transitioning towards achieving net-zero emissions. India has already committed over 5 billion in financing towards sustainable development priorities, particularly in areas like solar and wind energy, as well as social sustainability.”

Mr Amit Jain

Global Lead on Storage and Senior Energy Specialist, The World Bank, India

Digital Transformation and Creating Digital Public Goods: Roadmap for Digital Development



The session was also addressed by H E Mr Margus Tsahkna, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Estonia; H E Mr Władysław Teofil Bartoszewski, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland; Mr Fokion Karavias, Chief Executive Officer, EURO BANK S.A., Greece; Mr Nishad Ali, Chief Executive Officer, Teltonika IoT Group, India and Mr Tejpreet S Chopra, Co-Chairman, CII National Initiative on Cleaner Air, Better Life and President & Chief Executive Officer, Industry.AI, India.

“Considering digital transformation, it is very important to realise that this process is a one-way journey, there is no way back. Therefore, it is a right time to say that what happens in the last ten years that we have taken to reach this stage of digital transformation. Poland has successfully set up the link between information technology and operation technology. We are trying to save the environment and not contribute to heat.”

Mr Tomasz Widomski

Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Elpoma, Republic of Poland

Enabling the Industry 5.0



The session was also addressed by Mr Nikolaus Bauer-Harnoncourt, Member of the Management Board, Agatex Feinchemie GMBH and Leotaurus GmbH, Austria; Mr Sandeep Chandna, Chief Sustainability Officer, Tech Mahindra, India; Mr Efkleidis Ioannidis, Strategic Business Development Director, Viohalco, the Hellenic Republic (Greece); Mr Dilip Sawhney, Managing Director, Rockwell Automation, India and Mr Pranjal Sharma, Economic Analyst, Advisor and Author, India.

“Industry 5.0 is about systems, processes and technology coming together. The focus was more on processes and technology, the human element is the missing factor. How do you look at products today? The products are highly customised. Even in India product launches are happening every three months at the same time the products are sustainable and green are increasingly becoming commonplace.”

Mr Prabhakar Shetty

Chief Digital Officer, Cyient, India

“Demography places an important role in automation that is being talked about in Industry 5.0. Global population will reach its peak by 2050 as conveyed by demography experts. After this there will decrease in the labour force in the world. Demography in this sense is an enabling factor in promotion of Industry 5.0.”

Mr Jakub Fekiač

CEO, Edgar Baker, Slovak Republic

Defence: Creating Partnership for Emerging Opportunity



The session was also addressed by H E Mr Rastislav Chovanec, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Slovak Republic; Mr Roberto Simonetti Spallotta, Chief Representative Officer India, Elettronica s.p.a, Italy; Mr Jaroslav Kuracina, Chief Executive Officer, GrandPower, Slovak Republic; Mr Ashish Kansal, Executive Director, SMPP Pvt Ltd, India; Mr Puneet Kaura, Chairman, CII Delhi State and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Samtel Avionics Limited, India.

“I am really glad to see the strategic area of defence is being explored in this conclave. Our defence cooperation with European Countries have matured where we go beyond military exercises and technology transfers. We are also looking at a shared strategy for the Indo pacific.”

Mr Neeraj Gupta

Member, Steering Committee on India-Europe Business & Sustainability Conclave and Managing Director, MKU Limited, India

“I am happy to be part of the second edition of the CII India Europe Business and Sustainability Conclave. Our relations with Europe is based on shared values, respect for democracy and pluralism. India's relations with Europe has intensified significantly in last few years especially with regard to the Defence sector.”

Mr Piyush Srivastava

Joint Secretary (Europe West), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

Circular Economy: Way to Zero Waste



The session was also addressed by H E Mr Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary; Mr Tibor Forró, Chief Executive Officer, Furbify, Slovak Republic; Mr Markus Dielacher, CTO, P&P Industries AG, Austria; Mr Bartłomiej Wojdyło, Director of Sustainability for Europe, CanPack, Republic of Poland; Mr Rajat Verma, Founder & CEO, LOHUM Group, India and Mr Sunjay Kapur, Chairman, CII Europe Committee and Chairman, Sona Comstar.

“ This is an opportune time we are having this discussion on circular economy. This is the way forward to zero waste. Circular economy has three key pillars-decarbonisation, green mobility and waste to wealth. ”

Mr Nishant Arya

Vice Chairman, JBM Group, India

“ Denmark is a country where we have to be very efficient in harnessing our resources. Waste is not waste but a resource that can be reused. Danes are circular in their mindset as well as the country -Denmark is proudly a circular economy. Today the biggest challenge is the climate change, carbon emissions and the finite resources available. ”

Mr Lars Rosgaard

CEO, Eususo, Denmark



Confederation of Indian Industry

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering Industry, Government and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

For more than 125 years, CII has been engaged in shaping India's development journey and works proactively on transforming Indian Industry's engagement in national development. With its extensive network across the country and the world, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

As India strategizes for the next 25 years to India@100, Indian industry must scale the competitiveness ladder to drive growth. CII, with the Theme for 2023-24 as 'Towards a Competitive and Sustainable India@100: Growth, Livelihood, Globalisation, Building Trust' has prioritized 6 action themes that will catalyze the journey of the country towards the vision of India@100.

Confederation of Indian Industry

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