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EU-INDIA-USA Triologue

Promoting trilateral Co-operation in Global Governance

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1. Background

The EU is both India's **main trading partner** and **biggest foreign inward investor**. The EU accounted for 32,2% of India's exports and 21,2% of total imports. **Trade** between India and the EU has grown constantly over the past decade, nearly trebling to today's volume of **€ 27 billion**.

The EU and its Member States collectively make the biggest bilateral contribution to India's development programmes. The EU will be devoting some **€ 225 million** to development and economic co-operation with India over the next 5 years. EU-India relations are structured through a **Co-operation Agreement** (signed in December 1993) and a political dialogue conducted at both ministerial and official level.

2. Brief general remarks on EU-India relations

India is a **strategic partner** of the EU with regards to its **geo-strategic importance** and its **potential role** in a **multilateral world order**. EU-India relations have been intensified in the last years:

- Regular **EU-India summits**
- Regular **Business Summits**, bringing together Indian and European business leaders
- The **EU-India round table**, which brings together leading members of Indian and EU civil society
- **Commission Communication** on an EU-India Strategic Partnership of 16 June 2004
- **EP's proposals for a recommendation to the Council**, September 2004

- newly elected EP has decided to draw up an **initiative report on an EU-India Strategic Partnership**
- There is the **5th EU-India Summit** due to take place in The Hague on 14th October 2004

India is one of the few developing countries which has stayed **stable** and **democratic** since its independence. With India Europe shares not only common interests but also **common values**. This is a very important basis for a **strategic partnership**. In its relations with India Europe has gone beyond trade or economic relations, it assuming responsibilities in the field of **security and defence policy**.

2. Promoting trilateral Co-operation in Global Governance

What is **global governance**? It is not a government but a **minimum framework of rules necessary to tackle global problems guaranteed by a set of institutions including both international organisations and national governments**.

In promoting global governance the **United Nations** has a vital role to play. India and EU as global actors in the multipolar world always express their commitment to strengthen the UN and equip it to respond to the challenges of the 21st century. **The reform of the UN** and especially its **Security Council** is a necessary prerequisite for a successful and effective United Nations in a fast-changing world order.

The geographical and geopolitical representation of the Security Council, which reflects the geopolitical situation after the Second World War and is not representative for a current world situation, should be improved through permanent seats for each of the following regions: **Africa, Asia and Latin America**. **India** is a country of a **1,2 billion people** and the **largest democracy of the world**. Taken into consideration this fact as well as the **geopolitical importance** of the country, India is a **natural candidate for a permanent seat in the Security Council**. Some reasons why India should become a permanent Member of UN SC:

- India is the world's biggest, liberal and secular democracy.
- India is the world's 4th largest economy (larger than that of UK and France combined, and larger than that of Russia) and one of the fastest growing.
- India is an acknowledged technology superpower.

- India is a responsible and peace-loving nation with a powerful armed forces firmly under civilian control.
- India is a responsible nuclear power with a strong record of non-proliferation.
- India has contributed significantly to UN peacekeeping operations.

Indian Prime Minister **Manmohan Singh** has recently expressed his "**strong claims**" for a permanent seat in the Security Council. Three of the five permanent members of the Security Council -- Russia, France and Britain - are supporting India. The United States has remained noncommittal on the issue. China, the other member, has said it favored a larger role for India in the United Nations but does not support giving a permanent seat to India in the Security Council.

Not only India, three other countries have recently built a "pressure group" of four nations that includes India, Japan, Germany and Brazil eager to get a permanent place in the top UN body. Whereas the claims of India, Brazil and Japan are really reasonable, **Germany's ambitions** are not only **inappropriate** in the time when Europe is growing more and more together, but also **not in line with the spirit of the European Constitution** giving the EU its **legal personality** and creating the post of the **European Foreign Minister**.

If we take the ambitions of the EU in the field of foreign and security policy seriously, we should advocate a **permanent seat for the European Union** as soon as its legal personality is recognized, rather than a seat for one more national state. The European seat would not replace the permanent seats of the UK and France, but will be an additional one. I am deeply convinced that having one European seat in the Security Council will force the Europeans to better co-ordinate their positions and find compromises.

The Europeans should put their efforts to lobby the European seat and support the reform of the United Nation as a whole. Support for a permanent seat for India could be a very important contribution for a successful reform of the United Nations.