

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2021/2177(INI)	Procedure completed
EU-India future trade and investment cooperation		
Subject 6.40.08 Relations with Asian countries		
Geographical area India		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 International Trade	 BOURGEOIS Geert	14/07/2021
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 MCALLISTER David	
		 JONGERIUS Agnes	
		 HAHN Svenja	
		 MATTHIEU Sara	
		 CAMPOMENOSI Marco	
		 MAUREL Emmanuel	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Agriculture and Rural Development	 DAVID Ivan	26/10/2021
European Commission	Commission DG Trade	Commissioner DOMBROVSKIS Valdis	

Key events			
07/10/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/06/2022	Vote in committee		

22/06/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0193/2022	
04/07/2022	Debate in Parliament		
05/07/2022	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/07/2022	Decision by Parliament	T9-0277/2022	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2021/2177(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/9/07260

Documentation gateway					
Committee draft report		PE704.665	25/01/2022	EP	
Committee opinion	AGRI	PE702.912	01/03/2022	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE731.629	27/04/2022	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0193/2022	22/06/2022	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0277/2022	05/07/2022	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2022)484	27/10/2022	EC	

EU-India future trade and investment cooperation

The European Parliament adopted by 482 votes to 107, with 40 abstentions, a resolution on EU-India future trade and investment cooperation.

Parliament recalled that trade between the EU and India has increased by more than 70% between 2009 and 2019 and that both sides have a common interest in forging closer and deeper economic ties. It also highlighted the potential of certain agricultural sectors, both in the EU and in India, as the EU is India's largest trading partner in the agri-food sector.

The need for a deeper partnership

The Commission, the Council of the European Union and the European External Action Service are invited to make every effort to improve and deepen relations with India, which is a strategic partner of the EU.

Parliament reaffirmed the need for a deep partnership based on the shared values of freedom, democracy, pluralism, the rule of law, good governance, equality and respect for human rights, workers' rights, women's rights and gender equality, as well as on the commitment to promote an inclusive, coherent and rules-based global order, effective multilateralism and sustainable development, the fight against climate change, as well as peace and stability in the world.

Members welcomed the willingness of both partners to work towards an ambitious, value-based, balanced, comprehensive and mutually beneficial trade agreement, as well as a separate agreement on investment protection and an agreement on geographical indications. Regretting, however, India's reluctance to condemn Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, they stressed the importance of democracies working together in a harmonised manner on key issues, including core values and open, rules-based and sustainable trade.

Full free trade agreement

Parliament encouraged the negotiators to make good progress in achieving a comprehensive, mutually beneficial free trade agreement, giving priority to areas conducive to sustainable growth and addressing inequalities and the digital and green just transitions, as follows:

- the comprehensive elimination of tariffs and quotas on a reciprocal basis;
- the elimination of an increasing number of technical barriers to trade;

- the establishment of a comprehensive single-window electronic certification process and the removal of disproportionate import bans;
- the inclusion of a comprehensive chapter on public procurement at all levels of governance in order to enforce the principles of transparency and non-discrimination in public procurement through effective remedy procedures;
- a comprehensive chapter on high-level protection for intellectual property rights (IPR);
- a dedicated chapter on SMEs;
- the inclusion of an ambitious trade and sustainable development chapter;
- the establishment of modern, SME-friendly, harmonised and reciprocal rules of origin;
- the inclusion of the newly presented circular economy action plan to ensure less waste and consumer empowerment, making sustainable products the norm;
- the removal of all discriminatory and disproportionate obstacles to establishment in both the services sector and the manufacturing sector;
- enhanced digital trade rules grounded in EU standards and global practices;
- the confirmation of both sides rights and obligations under the WTO agreements (anti-dumping, anti-subsidy and safeguards).

The Commission is invited to ensure that the core principles of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) are applied in the future trade agreement and that the future EU-India trade agreement is in line with the European Green Deal, the farm to fork strategy and COP26.

Investment protection agreement

Parliament noted the willingness of both sides to negotiate an independent investment protection agreement, which would increase legal certainty for Indian and European investors and attract more European investment to India, while preserving the possibility for both sides to exhaust domestic remedies. Members recommended working towards common and mutually beneficial objectives in this area to foster sustainable economic growth and innovation. They urged negotiators to agree on the creation of a multilateral investment court and a specific EU-India investment court.

The Commission is called on to ensure that the text of the agreement protects the EUs common single market by preventing:

- the importation of non-authorised GMOs in foodstuffs, feed and seeds;
- the importation of agricultural products and foodstuffs with higher levels of pesticide residues than allowed for in EU law, through the systemic application of EU rules on maximum residue limits;
- the importation of agricultural products and foodstuffs produced using hormonal preparations banned in the EU;
- the introduction of antimicrobial-resistant strains of microbes;

Negotiators are invited to agree, as a matter of priority, on the establishment of a bilateral ex ante and ex post consultation platform between the EU and India designed to facilitate discussions and consultations in advance of any new measures or subsidies that could negatively affect trade or investment.