Basic information

2008/2627(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the preparation of the EU-India Summit (Marseille, 29 September 2008) **Subject** 6.40.08 Relations with Asian countries **Geographical area** India	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
24/09/2008	Decision by Parliament	T6-0455/2008	Summary
24/09/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/09/2008	Debate in Parliament		Summary
24/09/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2008/2627(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B6-0426/2008	24/09/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0440/2008	24/09/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0442/2008	24/09/2008	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0443/2008	24/09/2008	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0455/2008	24/09/2008	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2008)6073	17/10/2008	

Resolution on the preparation of the EU-India Summit (Marseille, 29 September 2008)

2008/2627(RSP) - 24/09/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Following the debate which took place on the same date, the European Parliament adopted by 392 votes to 44 with 29 abstentions, a resolution on the preparation of the EU-India Summit to take place in Marseille on 29 September 2008. The resolution had been tabled for consideration in plenary by the EPP-ED, PES, ALDE, and UEN groups.

Parliament welcomes the holding of the Ninth India EU-Summit meeting and strongly recommends that these annual summit meetings be preceded by **parliamentary pre-summit meetings** in order to underline the democratic scrutiny of this process. It also .welcomes the establishment in June 2008 of the India-European Parliament Parliamentary Friendship Group. Members reaffirm their strong support for strengthening the strategic relationship between the EU and India, and for call for concrete conclusions to emerge from the Summit on economic, political, security, trade and other issues of mutual interest. They underline the importance of giving real political substance to the joint actions proposed under the revised Strategic Partnership Joint Action Plan which will emerge from the Summit.

Parliament underlines its firm commitment to the establishment of a **comprehensive, wide-ranging and ambitious FTA.** While negotiators have reached a broad consensus on trade in goods, further talks are required to find agreement on services, competition, intellectual property rights, public procurement, sustainable development, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and non-tariff barriers. An ambitious sustainable development chapter is an essential part of any agreement. Parliament notes that the EU is an important source of foreign direct investment for India, accounting for approximately 19.5% of India's total FDI flows, and that the EU the largest destination of overseas investment for India.

The Commission is asked to give due weight in its ongoing FTA negotiations with India to **human rights considerations**, in particular the implementation of ILO Labour Standards in connection with child and bonded labour, the abolition of non-tariff barriers and ongoing restrictions in the field of FDI in important sectors, and intellectual property rights.

Parliament encourages the two sides to work closely together on the **major environmental challenges** facing the planet, urging the development of common approaches to the threat of climate change and a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Both sides should commit to a post-2012 agreement on GHG reductions while recognising the particular issues India faces as a developing nation.

Members note the approval by the Nuclear Suppliers Group of the **US-India civil nuclear accord** (and of India's unilateral declaration of its intention to abide by its non-proliferation commitments and to uphold a voluntary moratorium on testing atomic weapons). They call on the Indian Government to transform its nuclear test moratorium into a legally binding commitment.

On international relations, Parliament recognises that India plays a major role in **conflict prevention and peacekeeping** in its neighbourhood and beyond. It expresses the hope that India, as predominant country in the region, will act as a promoter of stability and peace with regard to Pakistan Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, and calls on India and the EU to work together to prevail upon the Burmese military junta to release political prisoners and to respect human rights.

Members regret the outbreak of riots in **Jammu and Kashmir** in August 2008 and consider the opening up of Kashmir to a free flow of trade and persons is essential in order to break the deadlock of repression and violence.

Whilst Parliament recognises that India provides a model for handling cultural and religious pluralism, despite intermittent and local difficulties among religions, it expresses deep concern at the **current situation of Christian minorities**. It regrets the impact that the anti-conversion laws that have spread among several Indian states may have on freedom of religion. It also expresses deep concern at the recent attacks on Christians in Orissa (many of whom were of Dalit origin), and Kandhamal district in particular. Parliament deplores the killing of at least 35 people since the outbreak of the violence, and calls on the authorities to do all in their power fully to protect the Christian minority.

Members stress that India's **food security** remains an area of concern, and call on the Indian Government to bridge the demand-supply gap by accelerating the pace of domestic production of food grains and ensuring public and private investment, the introduction of new technologies and crop diversification.

Lastly, they note the slow progress towards the MDGs on education, health, gender equality and empowerment of women. **Child mortality and maternal health** are the areas showing least progress and are unlikely to be achieved by 2015, and actions on these issues must be prioritised.