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Indian Council of World Affairs
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road
New Delhi

Media Release

Conference on **European Union in a Changing World Order: Prospects for India-Europe Partnership**

(26 June, 2019)

The Indian Council of World Affairs conducted a one day conference on **European Union in a Changing World Order: Prospects for India-Europe Partnership** on 26 June 2019.

The participants of the seminar included former diplomats and scholars from eight universities and two Think Tanks across India. The seminar comprised of three sessions namely Europe in a Changing World Order; Europe, India and the BRI and; Prospects for Cooperation in India-EU Relations. The opening remarks were delivered by Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, DG, ICWA, and the Keynote address was given by Shri G. Balasubramanian, Joint Secretary (Europe West), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The first session was chaired by **Amb. Bhaswati Mukherjee, Former Ambassador of India to the Netherlands**. The speakers in this session included Prof. Bhaswati Sarkar, Professor, Centre for European Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Prof. Neeta Inamdar, Professor and Head of the Department, Department of European Studies, Manipal University and Dr. Ankita Dutta, Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs. The session discussed Europe's integration project has been under intense pressure beginning with the 2011 euro zone crisis, concerns of

migration, terrorism, impending Brexit, and the rise of Euroscepticism and populism. The session discussed in detail how these trends question of the European project itself.

The second session was chaired by **Ambassador J.S. Mukul, Dean, Foreign Service Institute**. The Speakers at the session included Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, Professor, Centre for European Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Prof. Madhu Bhalla, Former Head and Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi and, Dr. Surabhi Singh, Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs. The session assessed China's aspirations through the implementation of BRI and how this is becoming a catalyst for change in relations between China and Europe. Further the session also dwelt on India's position with respect to BRI.

The third session was chaired by **Ambassador Bhaswati Mukherjee, Former Ambassador of India to the Netherlands**. Speakers at the session included Prof. Jayaraj Amin, Professor, Department of Political Science, Mangalore University, Dr. Saurabh Kumar, Associate Fellow, CUTS- CITEE, Jaipur and, Dr. Chetan B. Singai, Deputy Director, Ramaiah Institute of Public Policy, Bengaluru. The session dwelt on the India-EU partnership in view of the publication of the 2018 EU strategy paper on India. The session discussed possible impact on trade relations between India and the EU in a post-Brexit world and on the opportunities and challenges in collaboration in the field of higher education and research as a way of enhancing people-to-people contacts.

In the concluding session, the importance of enhancing an understanding of the significance of India-EU relations through deliberations across the country was emphasised.
