



Indian Council of World Affairs
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Press Release

on

The EU-India partnership: time to go strategic?

Instituted by an MoU in 2009 between ICWA and EUISS, Paris, the ICWA-EUISS India-EU Forum on Effective Multilateralism is a multi-stakeholders' dialogue process that intends to analyze the India-EU strategic partnership in changing global, regional and national dynamics. The book "The EU-India partnership: time to go strategic?", which emerged from the proceedings of the Third India-EU Forum held in New Delhi in September 2011 covers four thematic issues (a) deepening economic cooperation and expanding cooperation on security issues; (b) proposals for enhancing economic and energy cooperation; (c) exploring new forms of traditional and non-traditional security cooperation; (d) case study: the Indian Ocean – another missed opportunity?

The volume also provides a review of issues that were discussed in the previous Forum meetings. The book urges the wider constituency of policy makers, academia, think-tanks and media to strive to release the full potential of the India–EU partnership. Much more needs to be done and achieved in the relationship given that the expectations from each other have also grown over the years. There are new challenges and opportunities ahead in the areas of trade, security, terrorism, energy, climate change. In essence, the book argues that multilateralism is a tool for cooperation to advance their national interests.

The ICWA and EUISS expect to use the India-EU Forum on Effective Multilateralism as a meeting ground, a forum to put forth constructive new ideas to enhance and consolidate the India-EU partnership in the coming years and support policy makers in their efforts to elevate the relationship to higher levels of mutual geopolitical and geostrategic commitments.

The panel discussion at ICWA among senior serving and retired diplomats of regions, academics, journalists, opinion makers and civil society of India generated debate. Some policy guidelines were suggested for decision makers to consider in enhancing India-EU relations in future. Introductory remarks were made by Amb. Rajiv K Bhatia, DG, ICWA and Amb. João Cravinho, Ambassador of the European Union to India and Head of Delegation.
