



PRESS RELEASE

“Working together, the EU and India can positively influence global governance”

In a global scenario where the world is undergoing deep upheavals, what role can relations between India and the European Union play? Can they be factors of peace, stability, security, prosperity and economic growth, not only in their countries and the regions but also the world?

New Delhi, 17th October, 2017

Ananta Aspen Centre organized a session on **"India-EU Relations: Can it be a Factor of Stability in an Uncertain World?"** as a part of **the Ambassador Series**. **H.E. (Mr) Tomasz Kozlowski**, Ambassador of the European Union to India, spoke at the session, chaired by **Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar**, Advisor, Central Asia, Ananta Aspen Centre and Former Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, Sweden & Latvia

Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar pointed out that **2017 marks the 55th anniversary of India-EU diplomatic relations**. The EU has been considered a role model for regional integration. The 1993 Maastricht treaty established the 3 pillars of EU - justice, economics and foreign policy. EU has faced many obstacles, but Europe has been innovative and has either sidestepped or resolved these issues. The current challenges which the EU faces are: the economic slowdown (from the mortgage crisis to the sovereign debt crisis), the BREXIT situation which questions the stability and credibility of EU, the refugee crisis, and reduced solidarity. The external challenges faced by the EU are: weakening transatlantic alliance, rise of China and a resurgent Russia.

H.E. (Mr) Tomasz Kozlowski highlighted how the EU has grown over the past few years. The EU integration process was launched as a political process with political objectives. The purpose of the integration process was to avoid conflicts and promote economic prosperity using economic instruments. The Balkan problem drew attention to the need for EU to develop instruments on foreign security and defense policies. Today, the EU is able to deploy military missions outside Europe and has done so in Asia, Africa (Chad), Indian Ocean (The EU Counter-Piracy Mission Atalanta) etc. EU is becoming a major player in foreign policy and security arena.

He also stated that the **economic slowdown in Europe is over**. Unemployment is going down, investments are going up and the Euro is becoming stronger. The EU has put in place instruments to avoid repetition of sovereign debt crisis. BREXIT is not an overarching problem in the EU. With regards to reduced solidarity, the EU is a transparent, democratic structure and trends in European countries show that the EU is still looking forward. Terrorism is not a new threat, the new challenge is the increasing fragility of global governance and instability of state actors. Earlier there was a general consensus between countries on how to deal with threats of terrorism.

The EU is looking for partners like India who share the ideals of a rule based international order. In the EU India Summit, **for the first time EU and India have been called as “natural partners.”** Both sides now have

clearly identified interests and have recognized common responsibilities. **H.E. (Mr) Tomasz Kozlowski** mentioned that **“for India, EU remains the biggest trading partner.”** Directly addressing the session topic, He stated that **“the EU is a natural and relevant partner to India in foreign policy and economic fields and the EU is interested in the growing role of India on the international level.”**

The EU and India partnership is a win-win situation. It is not only a convergence of values but also a convergence of interests.

About Ananta Aspen Centre:

Engaging India, Nurturing Change Ananta Aspen Centre is an educational and policy studies organisation based in New Delhi. It focusses on values based leadership and open dialogue on challenges facing Indian society to help foster its transformation. The Centre engages civil society, business, governments and other key stakeholders to share ideas and bring a wide range of perspectives on issues important to India’s development, foreign policy, strategic affairs and national security. Ananta Aspen Centre is an independent non-profit organization registered under the Indian Trusts Act and under 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act.

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