

India, EU to work towards blocking terror funding

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As part of a joint effort to fight terrorism, India and the European Union on Wednesday decided to establish contacts between Counter Terrorism Coordinators and to work towards blocking access to terrorist financing and co-operate in the fight against money laundering.

"We recognise the fact that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and reaffirm our condemnation of all acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as criminal and unjustifiable, irrespective of their motives," a political declaration signed during the Sixth India-EU summit here stated.

Security dialogue

It was also decided to establish an EU-India security dialogue on global and regional security issues, disarmament and non-proliferation.

EU would also work closely to promote effective multilateralism and strengthen UN peacekeeping and peace building through exchanging best practice and engaging in joint training.

"We hold a common belief in the fundamental importance of multilateralism and in the essential role of the United Nations for maintaining international peace and security, promoting the economic and social advancement of all people and meeting global threats and challenges. We will work together to uphold human rights in a spirit of equality and mutual respect," the two-page declaration said.

Regarding trade and cooperation, India and EU will establish a High Level Trade Group to explore ways of increasing bilateral economic flows, including discussions on the possible launch of bilateral negotiations on a comprehensive trade and investment agreement.

An India-EU Initiative on Clean Development and Climate Change, with the aim of promoting cleaner technologies and their use, has also been launched.

Energy Sector

The two sides decided to strengthen cooperation in the energy sector to develop more efficient, cleaner and alternative energy chains and work to secure India's membership in the ITER nuclear fusion project.

"We will strengthen our collaboration in science and technology, especially by looking to co-sponsor collaborative research projects in areas such as genomics, nanotechnology and high-energy physics. In biotechnology we will cooperate in confronting the global challenges posed by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria," according to the declaration..

Galileo Project

A framework agreement on India's participation in Galileo Satellite Navigation Systems has been finalized.

A decision towards an agreement on Maritime Transport and to launch a comprehensive dialogue on Civil Aviation has been taken. Also efforts are on to encourage business-to-business contacts, including holding a Business Round Table, along with Business Summits.

"We will continue to work closely together to achieve a successful Hong Kong Ministerial Conference that delivers an ambitious package allowing completion of the Doha Development Agenda in 2006," the declaration said.

Bringing together people and culture

It has been decided to hold dialogues on migration and consular issues in the context of the opportunities and challenges flowing from the large-scale movement of people between India and the EU..

"We will increase educational co-operation through the facilitation of academic exchanges, such as Erasmus Mundus, and through encouraging the development of EU studies in India and Indian studies in the EU," the declaration said.

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