

Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

Aan de Voorzitter van de
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Geachte voorzitter,

Hierbij bied ik u, mede namens de minister-president, het verslag aan van de informele Europese Raad van 7 en 8 mei 2021.

De minister van Buitenlandse Zaken,

Stef Blok

VERSLAG VAN DE INFORMELE BIJENKOMST VAN DE LEDEN VAN DE EUROPESE RAAD VAN 7 EN 8 MEI 2021

Op vrijdag 7 en zaterdag 8 mei vond een informele bijeenkomst van de leden van de Europese Raad plaats in Porto. Op vrijdag 7 mei spraken de leden van de Europese Raad tijdens een diner over COVID-19 en Rusland. Op zaterdag 8 mei vonden een Sociale Top en een EU-India Top plaats. De minister-president nam via videoverbinding deel aan deze bijeenkomsten. Op vrijdag 7 mei vond tevens een Social Summit Conferentie plaats, georganiseerd door het Portugese voorzitterschap en de Europese Commissie. Namens Nederland nam de minister van SZW via videoverbinding deel aan deze conferentie.

Social Summit Conferentie d.d. 7 mei en Sociale Top d.d. 8 mei

Voorafgaand aan de Sociale Top van 8 mei vond op 7 mei een Social Summit Conferentie plaats, georganiseerd door het Portugese voorzitterschap en de Europese Commissie. De minister van SZW nam namens Nederland via videoverbinding deel aan deze conferentie. Naast vertegenwoordigers van de lidstaten en EU-instituties waren ook het maatschappelijk middenveld en sociale partners vertegenwoordigd.¹ De deelnemers van de conferentie waren het eens over het belang van de Sociale Top gezien de uitdagingen waar de EU voor staat, zoals het herstel uit de COVID-19 pandemie en de digitale en groene transitie. De pandemie heeft bijgedragen aan ongelijkheid en dit dient doorbroken te worden. Veel sprekers benoemden hierbij specifiek de positie van jongeren en vrouwen. Ook benadrukten veel sprekers het belang van vaardigheden en levenlang ontwikkelen om mensen aan het werk te krijgen en te houden. Waar sommigen de EU opriepen tot actie om ongelijkheid tegen te gaan, gaven anderen aan dat dit met name iets is voor de nationale en lokale overheden in samenwerking met sociale partners.

De minister van SZW heeft namens Nederland aangegeven dat de snel veranderende arbeidsmarkten veel flexibiliteit en aanpassingsvermogen van werknemers vragen. Tevens heeft hij ingebracht dat er gestreefd moet worden naar het creëren van banen van hoge kwaliteit en dat mensen de mogelijkheid moeten krijgen de nodige vaardigheden en kwalificaties te ontwikkelen voor deze banen. Door in heel Europa meer en kwalitatief betere banen te creëren, wordt het risico op armoede en sociale uitsluiting verkleind. Het zal gelijke kansen bevorderen en individueel welzijn en economische groei vergroten.

Op 8 mei nam de minister-president via videoverbinding deel aan de Sociale Top. De leden van de ER betrokken de uitkomsten van de Social Summit Conferentie bij hun bespreking van de verdere implementatie van de Europese Pijler van Sociale Rechten². De leden van de Europese Raad namen de Porto verklaring³ aan waarin zij de streefdoelen voor 2030 uit het Actieplan van de Europese Commissie voor de Sociale Pijler verwelkomen (ten minste 78% van de bevolking tussen de 20 en 64 jaar moet in 2030 een baan hebben, ten minste 60% van alle volwassenen volgt in 2030 elk jaar een opleiding en het aantal mensen met risico op armoede of sociale uitsluiting moet in 2030 met ten minste 15 miljoen gereduceerd zijn). De verklaring benoemt, in lijn met het non-paper dat Nederland samen met 10 andere lidstaten heeft ingebracht, dat hierbij de bestaande bevoegdheidsverdeling en de principes van subsidiariteit en proportionaliteit gerespecteerd dienen te worden. Bij monitoring van de voortgang op deze doelstellingen, als onderdeel van de Europees Semester, worden nationale omstandigheden in acht genomen.

Vrijwel alle leden van de Europese Raad benadrukten dat het herstel uit de COVID-19 pandemie en de digitale en groene transitie vragen om inzet op het creëren van meer en betere banen, investeren in onderwijs en een levenlang leren en aandacht voor de gevolgen van met name technologische veranderingen op de arbeidsmarkt. Nederland heeft daarnaast gewezen op het belang van hervormingen en het versterken van de weerbaarheid van arbeidsmarkten voor het bereiken van economische groei en opwaartse sociaaleconomische convergentie binnen de EU. Nederland en andere lidstaten gaven aan dat ook het bestrijden van discriminatie en het bevorderen van gelijkheid van alle

¹ De sociale partners, de Europese Commissie, het Europees Parlement, het social Platform en het voorzitterschap hebben gezamenlijk een verklaring ondertekend die zij, via de voorzitter van de ER, aan de regeringsleiders hebben overhandigd ter bespreking op de informele ER op 8 mei, <https://www.2021portugal.eu/en/porto-social-summit/porto-social-commitment>. Dit document is tevens bijgevoegd aan het verslag (Bijlage: Porto Social Commitment, 8 May).

² Europese pijler van Sociale Rechten: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13129-2017-INIT/nl/pdf>

³ De Porto verklaring, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/05/08/the-porto-declaration/> Dit document is tevens bijgevoegd aan het verslag (Bijlage: Porto Declaration, 8 May).

individuele inwoners van de EU bijdraagt aan een weerbaar en inclusief Europa. Sociaal beleid van de lidstaten, in nauwe samenwerking met sociale partners en met gerichte steun van de Commissie, verkleint het risico op armoede en sociale uitsluiting en kan zorgen voor een diepere en eerlijke interne markt.

EU-India Top

Op 8 mei vond de EU-India Top plaats. Premier Modi nam, net als enkele andere regeringsleiders, virtueel deel. Dit was de eerste EU-India top waarbij Premier Modi direct met alle 27 EU-lidstaten tegelijk in gesprek ging.

Het kabinet verwelkomt de uitkomsten van de EU-India top. De slotverklaring⁴ onderstreept de ambitie van beide zijden om de samenwerking te intensiveren, vanuit het vertrekpunt dat de EU en India gezamenlijke belangen, principes en democratische waarden delen. Het kabinet verwelkomt ook de recente steun van EU-lidstaten aan India bij de bestrijding van de ernstige tweede corona uitbraak. Met betrekking tot de klimaatdoelstellingen committeren beide partijen zich aan intensievere samenwerking, met een focus op de energietransitie, emissiereductie en klimaatadaptatie. Op die manier kan aanzienlijke voortgang geboekt worden in de strijd tegen klimaatverandering. Tegelijkertijd blijft de EU met India in dialoog over het verhogen van de klimaatdoelstellingen, inclusief een doelstelling rond netto nul uitstoot, in aanloop naar de COP26. Verder is in de slotverklaring een passage opgenomen over mensenrechten en het belang van versterking van instituties voor de bevordering van mensenrechten en de rol van nationale mensenrechteninstellingen. Het kabinet verwelkomt de gezamenlijke EU-India inzet op de versterking van het multilaterale stelsel en de bevordering van een vrije, open en inclusieve Indo-Pacific regio. Het kabinet steunt de hervatting van de onderhandelingen over een handelsakkoord en verwelkomt de afspraak om te starten met onderhandelingen over een separate investeringsbeschermingsovereenkomst. Naast de slotverklaring brachten beide zijden ook een gezamenlijke verklaring uit over een EU-India partnerschap inzake connectiviteit.

Informeel diner van de leden van de Europese Raad d.d. 7 mei

COVID-19

Ten aanzien van COVID-19 stelden de leden van de Europese Raad verbetering van de situatie in de gehele EU vast. Daarbij merkten zij op dat het zaak is waakzaam te blijven. Zij stelden vast dat de vaccinexport vanuit de EU moet blijven functioneren, in het verlengde hiervan zijn EU-bijdragen aan COVAX cruciaal. Met betrekking tot het Digitale Groene Certificaat (DGC) ging de discussie vooral over het juridische kader en over de concrete gevolgen van dit kader voor het reizen in de EU. Veel lidstaten benadrukten het risico dat lidstaten een eigen en onderling verschillende invullingen geven aan de rechten die aan een certificaat worden gekoppeld. Hierop werd vastgesteld dat het van belang is dat lidstaten hun nationale toepassingen zo veel mogelijk op elkaar afstemmen en dat hier op korte termijn over wordt gesproken. De leden van de Europese Raad spreken op 24 en 25 mei tijdens een buitengewone Europese Raad verder over dit onderwerp.

Vaccins en intellectuele eigendomsrechten

De leden van de Europese Raad spraken tevens over het internationaal intellectueel eigendomsrecht (IE-recht) ten aanzien van COVID-19-vaccins. Zij waren het erover eens dat het zaak is de productie van vaccins snel op te voeren. Ten aanzien van deze intellectuele eigendomsrechten benadrukte een groot aantal lidstaten dat het vrijgeven van patenten op de korte termijn niet zal helpen om de wereldwijde beschikbaarheid van vaccins te vergroten. In de verdere discussie stond een aantal landen terughoudend tegenover het vrijgeven van patenten. Dit zou innovatie belemmeren. Daarnaast zou het ten koste kunnen gaan van de bereidwilligheid van farmaceutische bedrijven om bij een volgende pandemie te investeren in de ontwikkeling van vaccins. Aan de andere kant gaf een aantal lidstaten aan open te staan om te onderzoeken of het vrijgeven van het IE-recht (op langere termijn) zou kunnen helpen. De mogelijkheden om de productie verder op te schalen bij de huidige vaccinproducenten zouden volgens hen (te) beperkt zijn. Een derde groep landen stond neutraal in de discussie. Nederland heeft betoogd dat het opschalen van de mondiale productiecapaciteit de kern van de oplossing is. De centrale vraag is daarom volgens Nederland of het opschorten van het IE-recht

⁴ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/49523/eu-india-leaders-meeting-joint-statement-080521.pdf>. Dit document is tevens bijgevoegd aan het verslag (Bijlage: Joint Statement EU-India Leaders' Meeting, 8 May).

bijdraagt aan deze opschaling, waarbij enige voorzichtigheid gepast is wegens de risico's van een dergelijke opschorting. Uiteindelijk stelde de voorzitter van de Europese Raad vast dat er veel aarzelingen en twijfels bij de leden van de Europese Raad zijn over het vrijgeven van patenten, maar dat de EU ook bereid moet zijn hier nader over te spreken. Dit onderwerp zal weer aan de orde komen bij de buitengewone Europese Raad van 24-25 mei.

Rusland

Tsjechië informeerde de leden van de Europese Raad over de wederzijdse uitzettingen van Tsjechische en Russische diplomaten in verband met de Russische betrokkenheid bij de ontploffing van een munitiedepot in Tsjechië in 2014. Een aantal leden gaf aan naar aanleiding hiervan diplomatieke actie te hebben ondernomen. Daarnaast benadrukte een aantal lidstaten dat de EU gezamenlijk moet optrekken om een vuist te kunnen maken tegen Rusland. Tot slot werd kort stilgestaan bij de vraag in hoeverre de EU open moet staan voor dialoog en selectieve samenwerking met Rusland. Tijdens de buitengewone Europese Raad van 24 en 25 mei zal hier tijdens een strategische discussie verder over worden gesproken.

PORTO SOCIAL SUMMIT



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MAY 7TH 2021



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We, the subscribing institutions and organisations, have come together in Porto during the Social Summit to rally forces to strengthen the commitment to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and to use this unique opportunity to join forces for an inclusive, sustainable, just and jobs-rich recovery, based on a competitive economy and that leaves no one behind.

To this aim, we underline that:

- We are living unprecedented times. Our shared ambition for a transition towards a green, socially just and digital economy will shape the livelihoods of people across Europe for the decades to come, changing amongst others consumption, distribution, production, and working patterns. COVID-19 put a strain on our health systems and has exposed Europe to further far-reaching changes in our jobs, education, economy, welfare systems and social life, resulting in a profound economic and social crisis;
- The European response to COVID-19 contained many of the negative effects of the pandemic, showing the benefits of a coordinated European approach, which should continue guiding us in a joined effort to strive for solution-oriented actions while taking account of the diversity of national systems. It will continue to bring innovation, sustainable economic development, cohesion and upward economic and social convergence;
- With unemployment and inequalities increasing due to the pandemic, it is important to channel resources where they are most needed to strengthen our economies and to focus our policy efforts on equal opportunities, access to quality services, quality job creation, entrepreneurship, up- and reskilling and reducing poverty and exclusion;
- This is therefore the right moment to collectively assert and support an ambitious agenda of strong, sustainable and inclusive economic and social recovery and modernisation that goes hand in hand with strengthening the European Social Model, so that all people benefit from the green and digital transitions and live in dignity;
- The 20 principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, proclaimed in 2017 at the Gothenburg Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth, remain a compass to guide us towards a strong, sustainable, inclusive recovery and towards upward economic and social convergence;
- In their Strategic Agenda 2019-2024, EU leaders have underlined that the Pillar needs to be implemented, turning its principles into action at Union and Member State level with due regard for the respective competences. In its resolutions on a Strong Social Europe for Just Transitions and on the Child Guarantee, the European Parliament also strongly emphasised the need for a strong shared commitment to the materialisation of the Pillar rights and principles. In the debates developed by the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions the relevance of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan was stressed.

In this context, we welcome the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan presented by the European

Commission and, using the most suitable instruments, while respecting the principle of subsidiarity and limiting the administrative burden on small and medium-sized companies, call all relevant actors to take on the learnings from this pandemic and to join efforts to:

- maintain emergency measures as long as necessary while promoting a strategic approach to facilitate the creation of new quality jobs and job-to-job transitions;
- mobilise all necessary resources - investments and reforms - to exit the economic and social crisis, to enhance Europe's resilience to future crises and to strengthen the competitiveness of the European economy, based on sustainable and inclusive growth, decent work and social justice, and paying particular attention to the environmental, digital and technological empowerment of workers, enterprises and institutions, with an emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises and services of general interest;
- support fair and sustainable competition in the Internal Market through innovation, quality jobs, decent wages, adequate working conditions, safe and healthy working places and environments, equal treatment and fair mobility;
- take measures to improve the functioning of labour markets so that they contribute to sustainable economic growth, international competitiveness, foster decent working conditions and fair pay for all, and promote the integration of women, young people and vulnerable categories in the labour market;
- take measures to reinforce national social protection systems to ensure a life with dignity for all while preserving their sustainability;
- pay special attention to the activities, communities and people most affected by the COVID19 crisis and its short, medium- and long-term consequences;
- reinforce territorial and social cohesion, with the involvement of the European, national, regional and local levels of government, namely focusing in sectors, groups and territories with deep and long-lasting structural weaknesses and undergoing rapid and major transformations, and support the reinforcement of essential services and infrastructures in this endeavor;
- promote autonomous social dialogue as a structuring component of the European Social Model and strengthen it at the European, national, regional, sectorial and company levels, with special emphasis on ensuring an enabling framework for collective bargaining within the various models that exist in the Member States;
- promote gender equality, including by closing the gender pay gap and guaranteeing the right to equal pay for work of equal value;
- develop public policies that, at the appropriate level, strengthen social cohesion, fight against all forms of discrimination, including in the world of work, and promote equal opportunities for all, particularly addressing children at risk of poverty, the elderly, people with disabilities, people with a migration background, disadvantaged and minority groups and the homeless;
- promote a comprehensive approach to lift children out poverty by prioritising funding for children's rights and by mainstreaming the child guarantee across all policy sectors while boosting investment in sustainable jobs and social support for their parents;
- promote civil dialogue and support the activities of civil society in the implementation of the Pillar principles.

We call on the European Council to endorse the 2030 headline targets proposed by the European Commission in the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and to promote:

- the recovery of employment and quality job creation, as the keystone of economic and social development to achieve the target for 2030 of an employment rate of at least 78%, which implies at least halving the gender employment gap;
- investment in skills, lifelong learning and training responding to the economy's and society's needs, in order

to achieve the target, also by 2030, of at least 60% of Europeans participating annually in training and promoting access to basic digital skills for at least 80% of people aged 16-74, thus fostering skilling, reskilling, employability and innovation;

- adequate social inclusion and social protection policies to, by 2030, reduce the number of people living in poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 million (compared to 2019 figures), including 5 million children and with particular emphasis on breaking the generational cycle of poverty as well as advancing social mobility.

We call on Member States to set ambitious national targets which, taking due account of the starting position of each country, constitute an adequate contribution to the achievement of the European targets.

We confirm that, in the framework of an economic and social governance of the EU, the European Semester and its different tools such as the renewed Social Scoreboard, are the appropriate policy framework to monitor progress in the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and, on this basis, call for a regular assessment at the highest political level of progress towards the 2030 headline targets and upward convergence. The extraordinary resources made available to support Europe's recovery are a chance that cannot be missed to progress towards better implementation of the necessary reforms at the national level in line with the Social Pillar principles and goals.

Finally, we stress the importance of engaging and debating how to strengthen the social dimension of Europe with all citizens in the context of the Conference of the Future of Europe and beyond, involving the social partners and mobilizing the European society.

Porto, May 7th 2021

Luca Visentini

General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation

Pierre Gattaz

President of BusinessEurope

Pascal Bolo

President of SGI EUROPE

Alban Maggiar

President of SMEunited

Piotr Sadowski

President of Social Platform

David Sassoli

President of the European Parliament

Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission

António Costa

Prime Minister of Portugal



THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

The Porto declaration

1. We underline the importance of European unity and solidarity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. These values have defined the response of European citizens to this crisis and also lie at the heart of our common project and distinctive social model. More than ever, Europe must be the continent of social cohesion and prosperity. We reaffirm our pledge to work towards a social Europe.
2. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, swift, critical and comprehensive action at EU and national level has protected millions of lives, jobs and businesses.
3. The same spirit of unity and solidarity inspired our historic agreement in July 2020 on the Multiannual Financial Framework and the specific Recovery effort under Next Generation EU. As we accelerate the green and digital transitions, this massive European investment and the associated reforms will set the Union and its Member States firmly on the path of reform towards a fair, sustainable and resilient recovery. A collective, inclusive, timely, and cohesive recovery will strengthen Europe's competitiveness, resilience, social dimension and role on the global stage.
4. We welcome the high-level conference organised by the Portuguese Presidency in the context of the Porto Social Summit and take note of its outcome. The European Pillar of Social Rights is a fundamental element of the recovery. Its implementation will strengthen the Union's drive towards a digital, green and fair transition and contribute to achieving upward social and economic convergence and addressing the demographic challenges. The social dimension, social dialogue and the active involvement of social partners have always been at the core of a highly competitive social market economy. Our commitment to unity and solidarity also means ensuring equal opportunities for all and that no one is left behind.
5. As established by the EU Strategic Agenda 2019-2024, we are determined to continue deepening the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights at EU and national level, with due regard for respective competences and the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. The Action Plan presented by the Commission on 4 March 2021 provides useful guidance for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, including in the areas of employment, skills, health, and social protection.
6. We welcome the new EU headline targets on jobs, skills and poverty reduction and the revised Social Scoreboard proposed in the Action Plan that will help to monitor progress towards the implementation of the Social Pillar principles, taking into account different national circumstances, and as part of the policy coordination framework in the context of the European Semester.
7. As Europe gradually recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, the priority will be to move from protecting to creating jobs and to improve job quality, where small and medium-sized enterprises (including social enterprises) play a key role. The implementation of the principles in the European Pillar of Social Rights will be essential to ensure the creation of more and better jobs for all within the framework of an inclusive recovery. In this respect, relevant legislative and non-legislative work should be taken forward at EU and Member States level.
8. We will put education and skills at the centre of our political action. The green and digital transitions will bring enormous opportunities for European citizens but also many challenges, which will require more investment in education, vocational training, lifelong learning, upskilling and reskilling, so as to stimulate employment transitions towards sectors where there is a growing demand for labour. At the same time, changes linked to digitalisation, artificial intelligence, teleworking and the platform economy will require particular attention with a view to reinforcing workers' rights, social security systems and occupational health and safety.
9. We are committed to reducing inequalities, defending fair wages, fighting social exclusion and tackling poverty, taking on the objective of fighting child poverty and addressing the risks of exclusion for particularly vulnerable social groups such as the long-term unemployed, the elderly, persons with disabilities and the homeless.
10. We will step up efforts to fight discrimination and work actively to close gender gaps in employment, pay and pensions, and to promote equality and fairness for every individual in our society, in line with fundamental principles of the European Union and principle 2 of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

11. We will prioritise action to support young people, who have been very negatively affected by the COVID-19 crisis, which has profoundly disrupted their participation in the labour market as well as their education and training plans. Young people represent an indispensable source of dynamism, talent and creativity for Europe. We must make sure that they become the driving force of the inclusive green and digital recovery to help build the Europe of the future, including by using the full potential of Erasmus + to foster mobility across Europe for all students and apprentices.

12. We stress the importance of closely following, including at the highest level, the progress achieved towards the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the EU headline targets for 2030.

13. We welcome, as another success of European social dialogue, that the European Social Partners have made a joint proposal for an alternative set of indicators to measure economic, social and environmental progress, supplementing GDP as welfare measure for inclusive and sustainable growth.

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**Joint Statement
EU-India Leaders' Meeting, 8 May 2021**

Investing in EU-India Strategic Partnership

1. We, the leaders of the European Union (EU) and its Member States and India, met in hybrid format on 8 May 2021 in Porto. The meeting today highlighted our shared interests, principles and values of democracy, freedom, rule of law and respect for human rights, which underpin our Strategic Partnership.
2. We noted that today's Leaders' Meeting reflects a pivotal moment since the first India-EU Summit in 2000 and further strengthens our relationship towards a better future for our peoples. We appreciated the strides made in our partnership in the recent past and the strong momentum provided by the last Summit in July 2020. In this regard, we agreed to advance the implementation of the actions set out in the EU-India Roadmap 2025 as well as of the new decisions taken today.
3. We agreed that, as the world's two largest democracies, the EU and India have a common interest in ensuring security, prosperity and sustainable development in a multi-polar world. We agreed to further build on these convergences and foster new synergies for jointly contributing to a safer, greener, cleaner, more digital, resilient and stable world, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement.
4. We underlined the importance of effective and inclusive rules-based multilateralism for tackling current and future global challenges, with the United Nations (UN) at its core, and for ensuring a stable trading environment with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at its centre. In this context, we discussed the need for a reformed, renewed and effective multilateral system, which is fit for this purpose and reflects contemporary realities. India's memberships in the UN Security Council in 2021-2022 and in the UN Human Rights Council in 2019-2021, and its forthcoming G20 Presidency in 2023 are important opportunities to boost further our cooperation in international fora, to defend and strengthen international law, advance the achievement of Paris Agreement goals and Sustainable Development Goals, and support the necessary reforms of multilateral organisations.

Building global health preparedness and resilience – COVID-19 and beyond

5. We acknowledged the difficult circumstances caused globally by the pandemic. We deeply condoled the loss of lives and expressed the deepest sympathy with the families of the victims of this pandemic in India, Europe and the rest of the world. We agreed that defeating the COVID-19 pandemic through global cooperation and solidarity remains our priority and underlined our commitment to work together to ensure a better, safer, sustainable and inclusive recovery, including in the context of this year's G20 Summit in Rome. We supported universal, safe, equitable and affordable access to COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics and treatments, and the strengthening of health systems, and acknowledged the key role of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) in this regard. Recognising the role of extensive immunisation as a global public good and concurring that the vaccination process is not a race amongst countries but a race against time, we welcomed the EU's and its Member States' contribution to vaccines' production and their substantial support to the COVAX Facility, as well as India's efforts to produce and distribute COVID-19 vaccines to over 90 countries through its 'Vaccine Maitri'. India appreciated the EU's and its Member States' quick support and assistance, coordinated through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, thus keeping the spirit of solidarity and cooperation that has been the hallmark of EU-India relations.
6. We committed to work together to better prepare for and respond to global health emergencies. We agreed to cooperate on resilient medical supply chains, vaccines and the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), and on the application of international good manufacturing standards to ensure high quality and safety of products.

7. We committed to advance global health security, including by strengthening the World Health Organisation's (WHO) preparedness and response to health emergencies, and by reforming the WHO. The EU invited India to work towards an international treaty on pandemics within the framework of the WHO. In this context, we look forward to a successful Global Health Summit in Rome on 21 May 2021, co-hosted by the EU and Italy in the framework of the G20. We highlighted the importance of the "One-Health" approach promoted by the WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the World Organisation for Animal Health and the UN Environment Programme, in particular as regards nutrition and food safety, human-animal transmissible diseases and antibiotic resistance, and its integration in relevant policy-making processes.

Protecting our planet and fostering green growth

8. We reconfirmed our commitment to urgently address the interdependent challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and to contribute to the success of the upcoming Biodiversity COP15, Climate COP26 and the 2nd UN Ocean Conference. With regard to biodiversity, we recognised and welcomed the *High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People* and we are committed to work jointly for the development and full implementation of an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework with a set of clear and robust goals, targets, and indicators, and an implementation mechanism at COP15. We stressed the importance of intensifying cooperation in protecting the marine environment and combatting plastic pollution. In this context, the EU invited India to consider the endorsement of the Leaders' Pledge for Nature and the effective engagement with like-minded countries on negotiations on a Global Plastics Agreement.
9. With regard to climate change, we stressed the importance of achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, including strengthening climate change mitigation as well as adaptation and resilience to the impacts of climate change, providing means of implementation including finance, and fully implementing them without delay. COP26 is an opportunity to demonstrate progress towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement through the ambitious implementation of our Nationally Determined Contributions. In this context, we welcomed the leadership and progress each side has made, since the Paris Agreement was adopted, in announcing policies and plans that, as they are implemented, will lead to significant additional emissions reductions. We will continue to share with the international community the progress we are making in implementing the Paris Agreement, and encourage others to do the same. We welcomed the EU's membership of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and its support to the International Solar Alliance, as well as India's leadership in promoting solar power under the International Solar Alliance.
10. We welcomed the first meeting of the EU-India High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change, held on 28 April 2021 in preparation for the Leaders' Meeting. The Dialogue provided an opportunity to mark our strengthening cooperation under the EU-India Clean Energy and Climate Partnership. We look forward to the upcoming adoption of a new work programme for the Partnership by the EU-India Energy Panel and to deepening our cooperation to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy, promote energy efficiency, collaborate on smart grid & storage technology and modernise the electricity market. Through the Partnership's new work programme, we will step up cooperation to deploy innovative renewable technologies, such as offshore wind, as well as to exploit the potential of hydrogen - in particular from renewable sources - and of electricity inter-connections, to enable the cost-effective integration of large shares of renewable electricity. We are also committed to working together to decarbonise the industrial sector, further accelerate the process of electrification of the transport sector, improve the efficiency of cooling and the cold chain sectors, promote awareness about climate change and encourage sustainable finance and investment. We agreed to continue to share lessons on adaptation and resilience. We recognised that we share a deep commitment to ensuring that the transition towards a low carbon future is just and equitable within our societies as well as sharing lessons in this respect.

11. In light of the above, we agreed to hold the next meeting of the EU-India Energy Panel as early as possible. We further agreed to reconvene the EU-India High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change on a regular basis and to arrange related events that enable us to broaden participation in our Partnership with relevant authorities on both sides, to enhance interaction on best available technologies, as well as to provide a platform for engagement with all interested EU Member States.
12. We welcomed the increasing activity in India of the European Investment Bank (EIB) through loans and equity investments, as well as of development banks of the EU Member States, focusing on climate action, including renewable energy and green urban mobility, digitalisation of the economy, small and medium enterprises and the health sector. We recognised the ongoing important work of the International Platform on Sustainable Finance to scale up the mobilisation of private capital towards environmentally sustainable investments.
13. We agreed to enhance further our partnership in support of the sustainable modernisation of our economies. We are committed to accelerate the implementation of the new Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency Partnership to intensify bilateral exchanges on relevant regulatory approaches, market-based instruments and business models. The EU invited India to join the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency.
14. We agreed to scale up our cooperation on water management in the framework of the EU-India Water Partnership, notably to tackle water pollution, in line with the water-related Sustainable Development Goals and underlined the importance to address water challenges in the context of climate change. We will also boost cooperation to address air pollution.
15. We will cooperate closely on food, nutrition and agriculture including on sustainable food systems in view of the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit and Pre-Summit consultations. We agreed to take forward our Partnership on Smart and Sustainable Urbanisation and welcomed the new dedicated Joint Action Plan with the view to stepping up the cooperation in the identified priority sectors including developing of Smart and Sustainable Cities in India, focusing on sustainable mobility, innovation and urban e-governance, climate action in cities under the ClimateSmart Cities Alliance, as well as to consider the establishment of an Urban Water Association.

Fostering inclusive growth through trade, connectivity and technology

16. We agreed to enhance our trade and investment relationship to realise its untapped potential thus contributing to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are conscious of our joint responsibility to deepen this relationship, including to address the challenges that the multilateral trading system is facing. We welcomed the holding of the first two meetings of the High Level Dialogue on Trade and Investment as a platform for forward-looking exchanges on strengthening our economic cooperation.
17. We agreed to resume negotiations for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and mutually beneficial trade agreement which would respond to the current challenges. We agreed that in order to create the required positive dynamic for negotiations, it is imperative to find solutions to long-standing market access issues. We also agreed to the launch of negotiations on a stand-alone investment protection agreement. We also agreed to start negotiations on a separate agreement on geographical indications which could be concluded separately or integrated into the trade agreement, depending on the pace of negotiations.

We confirmed the potential and need for swift engagement in areas where both sides shared interest to deepen the economic cooperation. To this end, we agreed to create a joint working group to intensify regulatory cooperation on goods and services, including but not limited to the green and digital technologies . We also agreed to set up a joint

working group on resilient supply chains, building inter alia on the experience we have gained from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The High Level Dialogue on Trade and Investment has been tasked to ensure progress on market access issues and supervise negotiations, as well as keep progress on cooperation on regulatory aspects and resilient value chains under review.

18. We will enhance coordination on global economic governance, notably in the WTO and in the G20. In particular, we agreed to set up an EU-India Senior Officials' Dialogue to deepen bilateral cooperation on WTO issues, under the supervision of the High Level Dialogue on Trade and Investment. The Dialogue will notably aim at contributing to positive and concrete outcomes at the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) in November 2021. Beyond MC12, it will be an important platform for discussion on the much needed reform of the WTO to ensure its continued relevance.
19. We encouraged interaction between EU and Indian businesses, such as through the Business Roundtable, and stressed the importance of Corporate Social Responsibility, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and business and innovation opportunities in achieving the Paris Agreement goals and Sustainable Development Goals.
20. We launched today a sustainable and comprehensive Connectivity Partnership that upholds international law, conforms with international norms and affirms the shared values of democracy, freedom, rule of law and respect for international commitments. Our Partnership will promote a transparent, viable, inclusive, sustainable, comprehensive, and rules based connectivity. It is based on principles of social, economic, fiscal, climate and environmental sustainability and a level playing field for economic operators. In the context of facilitating large-scale private investments in sustainable connectivity, we expressed our commitment to implementing relevant international standards, including to ensure reciprocal access to markets. We recognised the importance of advancing the work related to the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and welcomed the launch of a second voluntary self-assessment of the implementation of the G20 Operational Guidelines for Sustainable Financing. We aim at enhancing and widening cooperation between us through projects, including with third countries and regions, notably in Africa, Central Asia and the Indo-Pacific, in order to build digital, energy, transport and people-to-people connectivity. In this regard, we recognised the key role of the private sector and the importance of enabling private financing to achieve our goals. The Partnership will synergise our efforts with the work of the multilateral development banks, including the EIB and public and private financial institutions of the EU Member States and India for promoting sustainable infrastructure projects.
21. We will continue our cooperation on space and transport and look forward to the EU-India Aviation Summit for enhancing air connectivity in a fair and equitable manner, including by eliminating restrictions and duplications. We look forward to exploring further concrete cooperation on matters of common interest such as the greening of the railways, ports and shipping sectors, and the decarbonisation of civil aviation.
22. We are determined to pursue digital transformation to create quality jobs and improve the lives of citizens. We look forward to the early operationalisation of the Joint Task Force on Artificial Intelligence. We welcomed the close cooperation on global digital standards and network security and agreed to enhance it further including in relation to 5G technology and beyond 5G. We agreed to deepen technological cooperation on Quantum and on High Performance Computing and look forward to an outcome oriented High-Level EU-India Digital Investment Forum later this year. We agreed to continue enhancing convergences between our regulatory frameworks and to ensure a high level of protection of personal data and privacy, including through possible data adequacy decisions, with a view to facilitating safe and secure cross-border data flows between us. We emphasised the importance of public sector digitalisation and sharing of best practices to support the uptake of e-governance solutions, including through human-centred platform services.

23. We recognised our mutual interest in protecting geographical indications. In this regard, we underlined the benefits of a balanced bilateral agreement on the protection of geographical indications. We look forward to the early conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding between the EU Intellectual Property Office and Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
24. We encouraged people-to-people exchanges in education, research, science and technology, professional activities including in areas such as information technology, environment, climate, healthcare, business and tourism. We committed to a close and comprehensive cooperation on all pillars of the Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility, and we will continue our engagement under the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility.
25. We also highlighted the positive cooperation on higher education, including under Erasmus+, and the relevance of cultural exchanges. We also agreed to achieve a balanced two-way mobility of researchers.
26. Building on the good progress achieved under the India-EU Science & Technology Agreement, we will further advance the cooperation and mobility on research and innovation in areas of mutual interest aiming at advancing the overall EU-India Strategic Partnership through increased efforts on research and innovation, in particular on green transition, digital agenda and global health challenges. We also agreed to foster cooperation on innovation through matchmaking and co-creation in each other's innovation ecosystem.

Striving for a safer, prosperous and more democratic world

27. We underscored the importance of enhanced and structured parliamentary exchanges for fostering greater mutual understanding and appreciation between the EU and India.
28. We reaffirmed our commitment to protecting and promoting all human rights, including gender equality and women empowerment in all spheres of life, and the importance we attach to our cooperation. We recognised the importance of strengthening the specific mechanisms for the promotion of human rights and the role of national human rights institutions, civil society actors and journalists. We welcomed the resumption of the Human Rights Dialogue, which nurtured a constructive engagement between both sides, and looked forward to the next meeting in 2022. We agreed to intensify cooperation in international human rights fora, in particular the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council.
29. We valued our close coordination on regional issues of mutual interest such as the preservation of the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA) and Afghanistan, and we discussed the developments in our respective neighbourhoods, inter alia Myanmar, Belarus and Ukraine. In this context, we welcomed the Joint Press Statement on Afghanistan, adopted on 4 May.
30. Sharing a common interest in a prosperous, peaceful, democratic and resilient Africa, we will enhance synergies in our cooperation with African partners.
31. We welcomed the recent strengthening of our cooperation on international security, including on non-proliferation and disarmament, countering terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism, maritime security, as well as on cyber and other threats through our regular consultations. We reiterated our full cooperation for promoting an open, free, stable and secure cyberspace, and for fostering responsible behaviour of all actors in the cyberspace including through mechanisms under the UN. We strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and underlined that it is crucial that perpetrators of violence and terrorism are brought to justice. We also emphasised the need for strengthening international cooperation to combat terrorism and terrorism financing in a comprehensive and sustained manner. In this context, we welcomed the imminent

conclusion of the Working Arrangement between Europol and India's Central Bureau of Investigations, which will support coordination and synergies in preventing and fighting terrorism and organised crime. We welcomed the holding of our inaugural dialogue on maritime security and looked forward to enhanced cooperation between the Indian Navy and EUNAVFOR Atalanta in the Indo-Pacific region. We expressed our desire to further enhance dialogue in the area of security and defence, including through joint initiatives and exploring negotiations for a framework partnership agreement.

32. We highlighted our commitment to the comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council, to make it more effective, transparent, representative and accountable, to reflect contemporary realities. We also acknowledged the role of the UN Peacekeeping in countries that transition from conflict to peace and reiterated our support to the Declaration of Shared Commitments on Peacekeeping Operations – Action for Peacekeeping.
33. We emphasised our commitment to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific space, underpinned by respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, democracy, and rule of law, transparency, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce, and peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). In this context, we welcomed the development by the EU of its Strategy for cooperation with the Indo-Pacific and agreed to strengthen our cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, including in the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and in relevant regional fora. We recognised the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) unity and centrality and commit to increasing cooperation and exchanges in the ASEAN-led framework such as the ASEAN Regional Forum. The EU also appreciated India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, which intends to promote international coordination and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.