

Mr. Maroš Šefčovič
Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
Brussels 1000

Brussels, 03 December 2025

Subject: Towards an economically ambitious EU-India Trade Agreement

Dear Commissioner, dear Maroš,

European business strongly supports strengthening our strategic partnership with India, and our bilateral trade and investment relationship in particular. As one of the fastest growing emerging markets, India is of fundamental importance to the Europe's economy in times of global volatility and of major competitiveness challenges at home.

Chambers of commerce and industry, through their network of bilateral chambers around the world, including in India, have been investing for many years in the Indian growth story, and our companies are looking optimistically into the future of the Indian market. However, numerous challenges and obstacles at and beyond the border still weigh heavily on the economic prospects of our firms when doing business with India, and for some of our exporters these hurdles prove unsurmountable.

A good and ambitious trade agreement with India is therefore extremely important to us, as we believe it is the best solution for mutually beneficial market access, and strengthened rules-based trade with a strategic partner. A trade agreement with India will also provide firms with a more predictable and transparent business environment in India, which is especially important for our small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

However, content must take precedent over time pressure; Europe must capitalise on its collective strengths and secure the best possible market access commitments from our Indian partners. This FTA should open the Indian market more fully than India's agreements with, for example, the EFTA states or the United Kingdom.

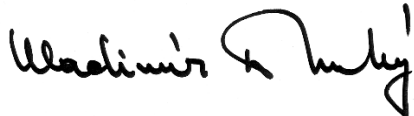
This includes in our view significant tariff reductions on day one of implementation including for key industrial and agricultural goods, avoiding lengthy transition periods, and ensuring that negotiated market access is not blocked by overly bureaucratic rules of origin. For companies to benefit from the agreement, the documentation requirements, in particular for proof of origin, must not introduce new bureaucratic demands or obligations. At the same time, technical barriers to trade must be reduced, such as those related to quality control orders.

India should also open up in the areas of services, investment and public procurement. In the digital sphere, we should work towards a conducive digital environment for companies on both sides, with binding commitments from India to refrain from imposing tariffs on digital transmissions.

Lastly, we believe the agreement is an excellent opportunity to establish the right institutional mechanism to prevent the emergence of new trade barriers through early bilateral coordination, as well as strengthened cooperation when tackling multilateral trade issues, and global challenges of our times.

Dear Mr Commissioner, dear Maroš, please rest assured of the full support of the European chambers of commerce and industry in your ongoing efforts to secure the best possible deal for our businesses, and we remain at your full disposal for any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,



Vladimír Dlouhý