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## ईयू और भारत के बीच संबंध सुधारने में मीडिया की अहम भूमिका होगी

लखनऊ न्यूज ब्यूरो

लखनऊ, 6 फरवरी। यूरोपियन यूनियन (ईयू) के बारे में जानकारी देने के लिए आज होटल ताज में आयोजित सेमिनार में ईयू डेलिगेशन के स्टीफानो गाटो ने विस्तार से प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत और यूरोपीय यूनियन के बीच द्विपक्षीय व्यापार के साथ शिक्षा और कई अन्य क्षेत्रों में सहयोग की अपार संभावनाएं हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि ईयू और भारत के बीच संबंध सुदृढ़ करने में भविष्य में मीडिया की अहम भूमिका होगी। भारत आगामी दशक में विश्व के प्रमुख सर्विस सेक्टर के रूप में उभरेगा।



लखनऊ में सोमवार को आयोजित सेमिनार में यूरोपियन संघ के अनिल पटनी, डा. एलेक्जेंडर स्पाचिस व स्टीफानो गाटो।

उन्होंने बताया कि इस संघ में इंग्लैंड, इटली, डेनमार्क, आस्ट्रिया, बेल्जियम, चेक रिपब्लिक, साइप्रस, इस्टोनिया, फिनलैंड, फ्रांस, जर्मनी, यूनान, हंगरी, आयरलैंड, लाताविया, लिथुआनिया, लक्जमबर्ग, माल्टा, नीदरलैंड्स, पोलैंड, पुर्तगाल, स्लोवाकिया, स्लोवेनिया स्पेन और स्वीडन शामिल हैं। सदस्य देश आर्थिक समृद्धि और शांति के लिए

मिलजुल कर प्रयास करते हैं। सेमिनार में यूरोपियन कमीशन डेलिगेशन के मिनिस्टर डा. एलेक्जेंडर स्पाचिस लखनऊ के मीडिया जगत के प्रतिनिधियों के साथ-साथ जेएनयू के प्रो. गुलशन सचदेवा, प्रो. एम. अकबर, मैलकम सुभान, सुश्री मारिया लौरा आदि उपस्थित थीं।

PUBLICATION : THE TIMES OF INDIA  
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## Information seminar on EU held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: European Union and India have opened a new chapter in their bilateral relations by embarking on a new strategic partnership mooted at the sixth EU-India Summit in Hague and endorsed at the sixth summit in New Delhi. However, the very concept of twenty-five independent nations coming together and forming a European Union is not clear to Indian public at large. To fill in the void and to initiate dialogue with the media at grass-root level the European Commission in India is holding a two day seminar namely 'Information seminar on the European Union for the Indian media' in the state capital.

The key objective of the seminar is to provide basic information on the current international issues in general and EU in particular and to understand the evolving shape of the EU in the context of the recent developments — enlargement of the EU to include 10 more countries on 1 May 2004, the issues related to the EU constitution, fi-

nancing the EU and candidature of Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Turkey to join EU.

The seminar with help in upgrading knowledge about EU's relations with India especially in the context of the sixth EU-India summit which took place on September 2005.

The seminar which began on Monday, is being attended by journalists from the entire northern region. Representing European Commission is a team comprising Dr. Alexander Spachis, minister-counsellor, European Commission delegation to New Delhi; Stefano Gatto from EC, Maria Laura Francoisi who is a free lance journalist with a number of media organisation including Italian news agency

**The key objective of the seminar is to provide basic information on the current international issues in general and EU in particular**

ANSA; Dr. Gulshan Sachdeva, associate professor at the Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Malcolm Subhan, a leading international journalist who has been witness to evolution of EU and journalists from state media.



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PUBLICATION

PLACE

DATE

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

5 DECEMBER, 2004

# EU freezes overall subsidy for agriculture

By Our Special Correspondent

**CHENNAI, DEC. 4.** The European Union (EU) has frozen its overall subsidy for agriculture but the subsidy is to be shared with ten additional member-countries who had joined this year, effectively reducing the extent of subsidy, according to Stefano Gatto, Counsellor (Trade and Economic) of the Delegation of the European Commission in New Delhi.

Participating in a programme on "issues before developing countries in the context of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations," organised by the Indo-Italian Chamber of Commerce (IICC) and the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) here today, Mr. Gatto also denied that there had been no reduction in trade-distorting subsidies as a result of moving of subsidies from the amber to the blue or the green box. Before moving subsidies to the green box, they were modified by the EU to ensure that trade distort-

ing aspects were removed.

He said the EU and India had a common stand in that both were against total liberalisation of agricultural trade. The EU also wanted non-trade concerns related to agriculture included in the negotiations. He deprecated the tendency to dismiss as insignificant the agreement reached in Geneva to eliminate farm export subsidies.

In respect of services, he said misleading propaganda was being indulged in by anti-WTO groups, including in Europe, that liberalisation and privatisation were being imposed on poor countries. He pointed out that under the GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services), the 'a la carte approach' was applicable, whereby each member country had the freedom to decide which service sectors and to what extent it would open up. The EU itself did not have full-scale liberalisation even within the community on many services, such as health.

On the issue of non-tariff barriers (NTBs), especially sanitary

and phytosanitary standards, India was as much at fault as the EU or other countries. That was why the EU wanted a universal Codex system adopted to eliminate arbitrariness.

S. Narayan, former Adviser to the Indian Prime Minister's Office (PMO); and Bala Ravi of the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, highlighted the lack of level playing field in agriculture in the matter of farm subsidies and the threat posed by the WTO regime to the livelihood of a vast majority of the Indian population dependent on the rural economy.

Ranjit Shah, President, Apparel and Handloom Exporters Association (AHEA), said China's share of the world trade in textiles was 18 per cent against India's 3 per cent share. India would not be able to increase its share even to 6 per cent in the quota-free regime from next year unless globally accepted labour standards were imposed on China.

Sauro Mezzetti, Chairman of the IICC, said problems of In-

dia's farm sector were related more to domestic issues, such as high prices, which ultimately benefited middlemen rather than farmers and constraints on the distribution system. The EU's proposed reform of the rules of origin (ROO) in the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) would benefit India, he added.

R. Veeramani, President, SICCI, alleged that false propaganda was being carried on about employment of child labour in India in many industrial sectors.

## BULLION RATES

December 04 rates in rupees with previous rates in brackets

<b>Chennai</b>		
Bar Silver (1 kg)	12,135	(11,905)
Retail (1 g)	12.95	(12.70)
24 ct gold (10 g)	6,625	(6,580)
22 ct gold (1 g)	613	(609)
<b>Mumbai</b>		
Silver	12,190	(12,310)
Standard gold	6,555	(6,835)
<b>Delhi</b>		
Silver (.999)	11,800	(12,150)
Standard gold	6,570	(6,660)
Sovereign	5,350	(5,400)



# 'Entry barriers need to be lowered for developing nations'

Our Bureau  
Chennai, Dec. 4

DEVELOPED countries need to be more sensitive to the needs of developing countries in multilateral negotiations or these will hit an obstacle and give way to regional trade negotiations, according to Dr S. Narayan, former economic advisor to the Prime Minister.

Addressing a seminar on 'Issues before the developing countries: WTO talks and its implications,' organised here by the Indo-Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he said in the last couple of years, over 300 free trade agreements had been put in place and this was not a good sign.

The international community must recognise the differences in earning capacity of a developing country and a developed one.

For instance, India's share of world trade is less than 1 per cent against developed countries' 50-60 per cent. Entry barriers need to be lowered for developing countries, which are facing a greater rate of reduction of trade barriers.

The UN's millennium development goal stresses that increasing trade contributes more to poverty eradication than aid, he recalled.

In India, with 450 million people dependent on agriculture, the livelihood of millions of people is tied to each commodity.

While there are over 200-250 items on the sensitive list for which imports are restricted, India will have to bring down the number. If it comes down by 100, a 100 million would be affected.

This is not an international issue but a domestic one, where the Government has to provide them the technology and livelihood to cope.

"Developed countries need to understand the sacrifices made by developing countries," he said.

India is putting in place a TRIPS-compliant intellectual property legislation, which will enable product patent in 2005. But manufacturers in developed countries were making too much of a 'song and dance' about some provisions in the legislation. But the IPR

issues had been brought under the purview of the WTO only during the course of negotiations because developed countries felt that the markets in developing countries were cordoned off.

Mr Stefano Gatto, Counsellor (Trade and Economic), Delegation of the European Commission to India, said the EU like India was not for total liberalisation of agriculture.

The framework agreement of August 2004, which deals with domestic support for agriculture, exports subsidies, market access and special and differential treatment, represents a reasonable system to work with. It addresses issues of limiting domestic subsidy and elimination of export subsidies.

Developed countries too have had to make sacrifices on bringing down tariffs. The EU has arrested agriculture subsidy despite the increase in the number of member countries. Issues such as non-tariff barriers need to be addressed particularly those relating to sanitary and phyto-sanitary conditions.

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## India and EU sign deal on trade co-operation

By Ray Marcelo in New Delhi  
FT.com site; Dec 01, 2003

India has signed a €14m (\$16.7m, £9.7m) trade co-operation agreement with the European Union and pledged to invest in Galileo, the European satellite navigation system being developed to rival the Pentagon-controlled Global Positioning System.

The agreements came as part of the fourth EU-India summit held in New Delhi at the weekend, an annual round of talks that aim to tighten political, diplomatic and trade links between the two sides.

Yashwant Sinha, India's foreign minister, and Christopher Patten, the EU's external relations commissioner, signed a "Trade and Investment Development Programme", which mostly plans to help Indian food exporters comply with strict European standards on food safety.

The two sides also endorsed customs co-operation and a maritime transport agreement, which are meant to strengthen legal rules to simplify trade.

A joint statement welcomed last week's ceasefire between the Indian and Pakistani armies along the Line of Control that divides the disputed state of Kashmir, and expressed hope that the move would lead to dialogue.

And in several statements alluding to US supremacy, India and the EU referred to each other as "global actors in the multi-polar world committed to strengthening the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security".

Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy chief, said: "India shares with the EU the same ideas on multilateralism and we share a common vision of how to run the world" - a reference to what some European governments fear is an emerging US unilateral agenda.

Reflecting European worries about US power, the EU has pushed the Galileo satellite navigation system to counter the US military-controlled Global Positioning System, which has become a de facto public navigation service.

By contrast, Galileo, a multi-billion dollar joint venture between the European Commission and the European Space Agency, is being designed for civilian rather than military applications.

India has now joined China, which paid \$200m (€167m, £116m) as an initial investment in Galileo, in supporting the project, which is planned to have 27 satellites in space by 2008.




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Indian officials are understood to regard Galileo membership as recognition of India's own space programme, which has launched several satellites, most through partnership with the European Space Agency.

According to Stefano Gatto, trade and economic counsellor at the European Commission in New Delhi, India can now influence the research of new applications for the satellite navigation system. "It's more of a strategic issue. You want to be on the boat when it leaves the port," he said.

Indian and European officials will hold talks over the next few months to determine the value of India's initial investment in Galileo but several reports say New Delhi could contribute \$350m to the satellite project.

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# 'EU is committed to multilateralism'

**O**n the eve of the EU-India Summit, Soumya Kanti Mitra caught up with Stefano Gatto, Trade and Economic Counsellor, Delegation of the European Commission to India to find out just what is expected of the summit:

## What is the purpose of the EU-India Summit?

The EU is both India's first trade partner (it accounted for 23.2% of India's exports and 21.25% of total imports in 2002) and the first FDI investor in India. Since 1991, mutual trade has nearly trebled reaching 27 billion euro. But the EU is more than an economic partner for India. The EU/India Summit, its agenda and its outcomes witness the consolidation of a structured dialogue, as a result of a constant and systematic upgrading of both the intensity and quality of Indo/EU relations in the last few years. There is a strategic dimension attached to the Summit: in a rapidly evolving international order, India and the EU are called upon to play a major role in the international scene and will have to play together on their main common interests. Beyond the well-established economic and trade agenda, these two major players have to further strengthen their capability to work together on issues like terrorism, promotion of democracy and human rights, global environmental threats, sustainable development, scientific research and telecommunications.

## What are expected to be the main results of the summit?

The outcome of the EU/India summit is going to be significant in several areas: India has expressed its willingness to join the GALILEO, a revolutionary global satellite



## INTERACTIVE

### STEFANO GATTO

positioning and navigation system which is being developed by the EU. GALILEO represents an advance on the existing GPS system and will have a huge impact on daily human life. The fact that the EU, China and now India are working together on such a matter represents a very meaningful development. Also, a 'customs co-operation agreement' has been signed: it will lead to trade facilitation by means of harmonisation and simplification of customs procedures and fight against fraud, to the benefit of the business community. The launch of negotiations for a maritime transport agreement, which will enhance the modernisation and rationalisation of the maritime industry and infrastructure in India is another area. Then there is the launch of a 15-million euro Trade and Investment Development Program (TIDP). This program will address the difficulties Indian exporters face in matching sanitary standards in the EU, through an important

effort of information and training; the program will also concern the setting up of investment and trade facilities and co-operation on intellectual property rights-related questions. We are also looking at 26 new projects of cross cultural co-operation and the future launch, probably next year, of an ambitious EU-India scholarships program.

## What do you expect from the business summit?

The 'Joint initiative on enhancing trade and investment' is a business-led initiative, which allowed the two business communities to come and work together. We welcome this initiative, which constitutes an important platform of proposals for the governments. A number of results have been achieved in the framework of the eight sectors of the joint initiative. But, we need to consolidate and upgrade the quality of our mutual trade pursuing further the agenda of recommendations formulated by the business community. In this light, the EU enlargement represents a new challenge for both the EU and India, and this dimension has been discussed in the Business Forum.

## After the Cancun failure, what is the EU position?

The EU is fully committed to multilateralism. It is ready to deliver, but under the condition that other WTO partners also seriously commit to the negotiations. There is growing acknowledgement in India of the fact that the EU position in Cancun was more flexible and open than generally believed. The EU is going to further develop these positions, taking into account the specific interests of developing countries, but bearing in mind that all parties are called to make concessions: these are the rules of the game.



## Dialogue on WTO issues unlikely in India-EU summit

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

THE European Union (EU) has said there wouldn't be any dialogue with India on WTO issues when their political heads meet at the two-day India-EU summit this weekend, even though trade issues will be discussed.

"Talks on WTO issue are unlikely to take place during the summit," Italian ambassador Benedetto Amari said at a briefing on the fourth India-EU business summit. He said while EU was fully committed to multilateral trading system, the summit would focus on business interaction.

Amari said EU was very keen to strengthen its relationship with India.

"India is an emerging economic power and EU is realising the importance of engaging India. We want to strengthen our relationship especially in the prevailing climate," he said.

However, the EU Trade Councillor Stephano Gatto said there was no possibility of a free trade agreement with India in the near future. He said EU believed in strengthening multilateral trading system and bilateral trade agreements would only be complementary.



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## Our Bureau



Mr Stefano Gatto, Trade and Economic Counsellor, Delegation of the European Commission, addressing a press conference on the fourth India-EU Business Summit, flanked by Mr Benedetto Amari, Ambassador of Italy, and Mr Amit Mitra, Secretary-General, FICCI, in the Capital on Wednesday. — Kamal Narang

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New Delhi , Nov. 26

THE Chairman of the Italian automotive major, Piaggio, Mr Roberto Colaninno, is scheduled to be part of a high-level business delegation accompanying the Italian Prime Minister, Mr Silvio Berlusconi, to India for the two-day fourth India-EU Business Summit which opens here on November 28.

Addressing a press conference, the Italian Ambassador to India, Mr Benedetto Amari, said that the Summit would be taking place in the "best climate" since the year 2000 when the first summit was held. Apart from the Piaggio chief, the Chief Executives of several other Italian companies including the Managing Director of Illy Caffee, Mr Andrea Illy, will also be accompanying Mr Berlusconi.

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The Prime Minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and his Italian counterpart will address the Summit at a special plenary session on November 29.

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Stating that one of the most important event for Italy would be the speech of the Italian Prime Minister, the Ambassador said that it was his impression that in the speech Mr Berlusconi will not only talk about the progress that India-EU relations have



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made since 1960s, but also stress on the importance of the first generation of the reforms which India has undertaken.

"I imagine that the Prime Minister will end his statement with an appeal that relations between India and the EU continue in a way that will be unstoppable and irrevocable," the Envoy said. The Italian Ambassador added that EU is one of the most important economies in the world and stated that it would be interested in laying the base for more cooperation with India. The Summit is also to be addressed by the Minister for External Affairs, Mr Yashwant Sinha, the EU President, Prof Romano Prodi, and the European Union's Commissioner for External Relations, Mr Chris Patten.

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□ The EU has ruled out the possibility of entering into a FTA with India

## INDIA-EU SUMMIT TO SKIRT WTO

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Nov. 26: Strengthening business ties will be the focus at the India-EU business summit beginning Friday as the two sides will stay away from any discussion on WTO issues when their political heads meet.

Italian ambassador to New Delhi, Benedetto Amari told reporters here that talk on WTO issues was unlikely to figure in the summit as the forum would be used to enhance trade relations.

Mr Amari said that while the EU was

fully committed to multilateral trading system, the system was aimed at business interaction. "India is an emerging economic power. We want to strengthen our relationship especially in the prevailing climate," he said.

But the EU has ruled out the possibility of entering into a Free Trade Agreement with India in the near future. EU trade councillor Stephano Gatto said that a "FTA with India is still very far." The senior EU functionary said that the organisation believed in strengthening a multilateral trading system and bilateral trade

agreements would only be complementary.

Several business leaders from Europe would be arriving in New Delhi for the summit. While the strength of the business delegation is expected to be around 100, Italy will have a maximum representation as 21 top Italian businessmen will accompany Italian Prime Minister and European council president, Silvio Berlusconi. FICCI secretary general, Amit Mitra said the summit would emphasise on harmonising quality standards in the food processing sector on both

sides. Prior to this meeting FICCI, CII and EU conducted eight studies on various aspects including biotechnology and the agri food business, the results of which will be presented and a future strategy will be chalked out to implement the recommendations.

The EU is India's second largest business partner but India is just a small player in the regional block trade with the world. The exports from India account for just a 1.3 per cent share of EU imports. Efforts are being made to increase it by three to five per cent in the coming years.



# Piaggio chief to attend India-EU business meet

Our Bureau  
New Delhi, Nov. 26

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The Prime Minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and his Italian counterpart will address the Summit at a special plenary session on November 29.

Stating that one of the most important events for Italy would be the speech of the Italian Prime Minister, the Ambassador said that it was his impression that in the speech Mr Berlusconi will not only talk about the progress that India-EU relations have made since 1960s, but also



Mr Stefano Gatto, Trade and Economic Counsellor, Delegation of the European Commission, addressing a press conference on the fourth India-EU Business Summit, flanked by Mr Benedetto Amari, Ambassador of Italy, and Mr Amit Mitra, Secretary-General, FICCI, in the Capital on Wednesday. — Kamal Narang

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## EU flays Indian media over Cancun meet

October 08, 2003 18:15 IST

Warning that the collapse of the WTO's Cancun Ministerial last month would have harsh impact on developing countries, including India, the European Union on Wednesday accused the country's mainstream media of wrongly declaring 'failure as a success.'

"Immediately after the Cancun Meet, I was quite surprised to see the mainstream Indian media declare the failure as a success," Michel Caillouet, head of delegation, EU, said at a conference in New Delhi.

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subsidies and improved market access for agricultural and industrial products," he said.




Expressing concern that the breakdown of talks at Cancun dealt a blow to the World Trade Organisation as an institution, Caillouet said: "The failure of the trading partners to respond to the major moves and flexibility shown by the European Commission -- on goods, services, special and differential treatment, the Singapore issues, development and environment -- was in our view most unfortunate and a unique opportunity lost for freeing multilateral trade relations."

He said the main consequence of this failure will be the delay in the progress of Doha Development Agenda negotiations due to the failure to agree on the scope and parameters of these (WTO) negotiations.

Describing trade liberalisation as politically a very sensitive issue and difficult to carry out, Caillouet said: "We will all be responsible if protectionism replaces our desires in the post-war era to bring about an international trading system which is free and which promotes expansion in output and economic growth."

Trying to come out clean on the controversial issue of agriculture, the EU official said the bloc is the single largest importer of agricultural products from the developing countries and shifted the blame on the Third World.

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Accusing developing countries of imposing higher tariff rates, he said liberalising trade within the Third World is more important for sustained growth.

Speaking on the occasion, Stefano Gatto, EU Trade and Economic Affairs Counsellor, said free trade agreements are complementary to multilateral trading bodies like WTO.

He, however, said the EU currently has not discussed entering into a bilateral free trade agreement with India.

Coming down on developing countries for imposing selection of agenda, Gatto said: "We cannot negotiate some issues and leave others. There are always efficient rules and not-so-efficient rules in any such mechanism."

Terming textiles as a critical component of Indian economy, S B Mahapatra, secretary, ministry of textiles, said that developed countries were continuing with high tariff rates while asking developing countries to free their markets for imports.

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Southern States - Tamil Nadu



### EU concerned at discriminatory tax on wines

By R. Gopalakrishnan

CHENNAI June 19. The European Union is agitated over the levy of a discriminatory tax on imports, especially wines and spirits, by State Governments in India, nullifying the effective protection (import duty) notified by the Centre, according to Stefano Gatto, head, Trade and Economic Affairs of the EU delegation in New Delhi.

“It was after a lot of negotiations and persuasion that the Indian Government lowered the very high import duty traditionally levied on wines and spirits. However, this has been countered by several States, which have subsequently levied special duties on imported wines and spirits, violating the rights of India's trade partners to national treatment of their imports”, Mr. Gatto told *The Hindu* here today.

Though discriminatory tax on imports by the States might cover more and more items, the EU was concerned in particular over the special levies on imported wines and spirits, in view of the extraordinarily high duties the Centre imposed on them till recently, effectively denying market access to EU wine producers in India. When at last the Centre was persuaded to improve the access, State-level levies came in the way. “I hope the problem will be solved in our discussions with the Centre”, said Mr. Gatto.

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### 'India must learn to market products'

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#### Our Bureau

CHENNAI, June 19

MARKETING is a typical weakness for Indian companies exporting to the European Union, according to Mr Stefano Gatto, Counsellor Head of Section Trade and Economic Affairs, European Commission.

Addressing a meeting on doing business with the EU here on Thursday, Mr Gatto said though the trade between the EU and India was strong, there were several areas of weakness. Indian companies tended to become suppliers of raw material rather than of branded products. The products were also perceived to be of lower quality than India's main competitor - China, he said. In addition, there are hardly any Indian brand names in the EU, Mr Gatto said.

He said that the anti-dumping duty device has been used too frequently. He advised Indian companies to cooperate with the authorities to sort out the discrepancies.

Indian exporters to the EU should realise that in doing business with the EU they are faced with cultural differences and language issues. He said that assuming that US business model will apply in the EU is also a mistake. On the part of the EU, more services could be sourced from India, he said.

Mr Gatto outlined the non-tariff barriers like the quotas, the import licences of sensitive and strategic goods and the certification for fresh produce and so on.

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The interaction between the officials of the European Commission and the exporters was organised to highlight the immense potential that the EU region holds for the Indian exporters. Speaking at the meeting, Mr Rafeeqe Ahmed, President, Federation of Indian Export Organisations, which had organised the meeting, said that India's share of the EU's global imports is around 1 per cent and was ranked 17th as a trading partner.



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The EU was also India's largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI). During the past 10 years, actual FDI into India from the EU has been around euro 2.6 billion, compared with euro 2.2 billion from the US.

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The EU has funded development and economic projects worth euro 2 billion and has a development assistance to India to the tune of euro 100 million.

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## Industry pitches for common economic zone in North

### Our Bureau

NEW DELHI, June 13

WITH India Inc's hope of having a "common market" within the country continuing to be a pipedream, industrialists in the North are now pitching for the creation of a Northern Common Economic Zone as a step towards the ultimate goal of having a unified market in the country.

While co-operation among States towards this purpose is the need of the hour, India Inc is miffed at the States following separate economic agendas.

Citing the VAT implementation delays, industrialists rue the way in which prudent economic policies are sacrificed at the altar of political exigencies.

Speaking at a seminar on 'India as a Common Market - The Challenges Ahead', Mr R.V. Kanoria, Chairman, Economic Affairs Committee, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), said: "In the absence of a common market system within India, the common economic space within the country is being constricted and eroded even while national policy makers are working towards integration of the Indian market with the global system. The internal domestic market continues to remain fragmented."

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Industry members are of the view that the Governments of Northern States should sit together and create a common market "by removing everything that inhibits trade between them - be it in the form of taxes such as entry tax or measures that restrict free movement of goods".

In his address, Mr Stefano Gatto, Counsellor and Head, Trade and Economic Affairs Section, Delegation of the European Commission, underscored the importance of a good competition policy and a strong competition authority.

To ensure that free competition is practised, the member States of the EU have a common competition policy.

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## India to gain from EU's agri proposals

### Our Bureau

NEW DELHI, Dec. 21

THE European Union's (EU) agricultural proposals for the WTO negotiations would benefit developing countries like India as it addresses New Delhi's key concerns in the Doha Development Agenda relating to "implementation issues" including agriculture.

Disclosing this to newsmen here, the Counsellor (Trade & Commercial Affairs) of the delegation of the European Commission to India, Nepal and Bhutan, Mr Stefano Gatto, said the EU is the largest importer of farm goods at \$60 billion in 2001 and is also the largest importer of farm products from developing countries. The current EU proposals, involving cut in tariffs, reduction in export subsidies and lowering of domestic farm support, goes towards strengthening this position, he said.

As India is also in the process of carrying out a series of agricultural reforms, New Delhi would be able to establish enhanced market access for its products in the EU market, even as India's agricultural exports to EU are around 10 per cent of its total exports to EU.

With India being a key member country demanding a "Food Security Box", Mr Gatto said in order to facilitate the implementation of further tariff reductions and to meet the developing countries' concerns on sensitive agricultural crops, a special safeguard instrument should be extended to developing countries for purposes of food security.

He said substantially lower commitments might be agreed if this is necessary for developing countries to attain their legitimate objective concerning food security and other multifunctional concerns.

This also involves a significant reduction of tariff escalation on



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products of particular interest to India by reducing the level of tariff protection (both *ad valorem* and specific).

Mr Gatto said the EU has backed India's demand for extension of geographical indications (GIs) on a range of agricultural products such as Indian basmati rice, Darjeeling tea and the current EU proposal has adequately addressed this aspiration. He said some of the EU proposals such as the emphasis on rural development, longer implementation periods for reduction of tariffs and subsidies would also benefit developing countries like India.

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**EC Says Its Farm Proposal At WTO To Benefit India**

OUR ECONOMIC BUREAU

**NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20:** The European Commission (EC) has said that its proposal on agriculture at the World Trade Organisation would lead to greater access for India to the European Union (EU) market.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Friday, trade and commercial affairs counsellor at the EC office in Delhi, Stefano Gatto, said the current proposals of cutting tariffs, reducing export subsidies and lowering domestic farm support was expected to increase India's export to the US.

"As India is in the process of carrying out a spate of agricultural reforms, it is expected to establish greater market access of its products in the EU market," he said.

Currently, India's agricultural exports to EU is around 10 per cent of its total exports to EU.

The key elements of the EC's agriculture proposal are cutting import tariffs by 36 per cent, slashing export subsidies by 45 per cent and reducing domestic farm support by 55 per cent.

Mr Gatto added the EC proposal had suggested setting up of a food security box, which was one of the demands of India. EC also supported India's demand for extension of geographic indications (GIs) on a range of agricultural products such as Indian Basmati rice and Darjeeling Tea.

Though some specific actions listed in the proposal relating to special and differential treatment would help the least developing countries, some of the proposals such as the stress on rural development would benefit developing countries like India, he added.

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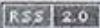
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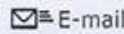


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# India to gain from European Commission's proposal in WTO

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

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THE European Commission (EC) has said that its proposal on agriculture at the World Trade Organisation would lead to greater access for India to the European Union (EU) market.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Friday, trade & commercial affairs counsellor at the EC office in Delhi said that the current proposals of cutting tariffs, reducing export subsidies and lowering domestic farm support was expected to increase India's export to the US.

As India is in the process of carrying out a spate of agricultural reforms, it is ex-

pected that it will be able to establish greater market access of its products in the EU market," he said. Currently, India's agricultural exports to EU is around 10 per cent of its total exports to EU.

The key elements of the EC's agriculture proposal are cutting import tariffs by 36 per cent, slashing export subsidies by 45 per cent and reducing domestic farm support by 55 per cent. Gatto added that the EC proposal had suggested setting up of a food security box which was one of the demands of India. EC also supported India's demand for extension of geographic indications on a range of agricultural products such as Indian Basmati rice and Darjeeling Tea.



# EC Says Its Farm Proposal At WTO To Benefit India

OUR ECONOMIC BUREAU  
New Delhi, Dec 20 59

The European Commission (EC) has said that its proposal on agriculture at the World Trade Organisation would lead to greater access for India to the European Union (EU) market.

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trade and commercial affairs counsellor at the EC office in Delhi, Stefano Gatto, said the current proposals of cutting tariffs, reducing export subsidies and lowering domestic farm support was expected to increase India's export to the US.

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Basmati rice and Darjeeling Tea.

Though some specific actions listed in the proposal relating to special and differential treatment would help the least developing countries, some of the proposals such as the stress on rural development would benefit developing countries like India, he added. ♦



# EU to protest India's move in banning chicken, meat imports

Our Bureau  
Chennai, March 5

THE European Commission will lodge a formal protest against the Indian Government, over its move in banning all imports of chicken and pork. The ban was brought in last month, in the wake of the bird flu epidemic in some parts of South Asia.

While the WTO (World Trade Organisation) rules allow such measures, there is a procedure to be followed, which the Indian Government did not, said Mr Stefano Gatto, EU's Counsellor for Trade and Economic Affairs in India.

At the sidelines of a seminar on 'Market access', organised here by the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Gatto told *Business Line* that the Government of India should have first issued a notice and then backed up the ban with scientific data about the danger that the import of chicken and pork could bring to India.

"We are going to complain to the Indian Government," he said, adding however, that the EU does not intend to litigate on the issue.

While there are not much of imports of these products from the EU, some of our member-countries are affected, he said.

The EU had proposed an immediate reduction in agricultu-

ral subsidies on products that are of interest to developing countries at the Cancun Ministerial meeting, but "this offer was not taken by the developing countries."

Countries that export agricultural products wanted a complete elimination of subsidies on all agricultural prod-

uctionist should remember that it ran a huge trade deficit of \$500 billion. In other words, its imports exceeded exports by half a trillion dollars.

India, Mr Quinn said, enjoyed a trade surplus of \$9 billion with the US.

Observing that the adverse effects, if any, of opening up an

*The EU had proposed an immediate reduction in agricultural subsidies on products that are of interest to developing countries at the Cancun Ministerial meeting, but "this offer was not taken by the developing countries."*

ucts. Mr Gatto said that it would be in the interests of India to take up the EU offer, because India is not a major exporter of agricultural products. Reduction of subsidies on some products would still be of interest to India.

Also speaking at the seminar, Mr Bruce Quinn from the US Consulate in Chennai, said that governments ought to educate the public about WTO. He cited the example of China (where he was posted earlier), which had done that successfully.

He said countries that criticise the US as being protec-

economy could be addressed by suitable domestic measures, he said that the only country that is not afraid of Chinese competition in textile exports is India.

"Why? Because India has spent a number of years in upgrading technology in the textile sector."

Dr H.A.C. Prasad, Economic Adviser to the Department of Commerce, Government of India, noted with examples that every time India became strong in a particular product of service, the developed countries came up with a non-tariff barrier against India.

## Rs 500 cr earmarked to promote tourism

Our Correspondent  
Madurai, March 5

A SUM of Rs 500 crore has been earmarked to promote tourism in the country, Mr C.R.V. Rao, Regional Director (South), India Tourism, Government of India, has said.

In his inaugural address delivered at a two-day training programme on 'Capacity building for service providers of tourism industry', organised by the Union Ministry of Tourism in co-ordination with the Tamil Nadu Tourism Department here, Mr Rao said that under the Rs 500-crore project, various works such as renovation of archaeological monuments, creation of basic amenities and laying of roads are being carried out.

Similarly, in an effort to attract the services of international airlines to all the important cities, airports are also being upgraded. Creation of these facilities would increase tourist inflow and give a boost to foreign exchange revenue and generate employment, he felt.

Mr Rao further said that training programmes have already been completed in Chennai, Tiruchi and Coimbatore. Madurai is the fourth city in the State to have the programme. Also, training programmes on etiquette and behavioural skills are being conducted for tourist drivers, agents and operators, Mr Rao said.