

Draft Agreed Minutes of the 11th Session of India-Spain Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation
Madrid, January 18th, 2018

The Eleventh Session of the Joint Commission for economic Cooperation between India and Spain took place in Madrid on 18th January 2018. The Spanish Delegation was led by Ms. María Luisa Poncela, Spanish Secretary of State for Trade and the Indian delegation was led by Ms. Rita Teatia, Secretary for Department of Commerce of the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

At the outset, H.E. María Luisa Poncela welcomed the Commerce Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India, H.E. Ms. Rita Teatia, and the rest of the Indian delegation. The meeting started with the adoption of the agenda.

2 Bilateral Economic Relations

2.1 Current economic situation and future prospects

2.1.1 The Spanish side presented an overview of the current economic situation. The Spanish economy maintained a high dynamism in 2016, favoured by the structural reforms implemented in recent years. According to the IMF, real GDP was expected to grow at 3.1% in 2017 and 2.5% in 2018, representing the highest growth rates among the main advanced economies in 2017. It was outlined that the domestic demand was the main economic growth driver in Spain and that the surplus in the current account balance during the last 4 years was a result of a structural change in the external sector. Additionally, the importance of foreign direct investment was highlighted. Spain has become a competitive platform for international business.

2.1.2 The Indian side presented an overview of the Indian economy positioning itself as the fastest growing economy in the world. It was informed that despite the global challenges, India has witnessed robust macro-economic stability. The GDP growth of India during recent years has been one of the highest in the world. India's macro-economic stability has been primarily because of reduction in inflation, current account deficit and fiscal deficit. The government's reform has spanned across various sectors; viz. from macro-economic sector (e.g. reducing inflation) to financial sector (e.g. Jan Dhan Yojana, GST), from governance (e.g. passing legislation on black money) to creating new institutions (e.g. Niti Aayog), and from business environment (e.g. liberalizing FDI flows) to environment and climate change (e.g. launching a major push to increase renewable energy capacity). An impetus has been provided to growth through recent initiatives like 'Startup India', 'Make in India', 'FDI Policy', 'Ease of Doing Business', 'Digital India', 'Smart City', 'Skill India', Demonetisation and Remonetisation, GST, etc.

In World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2018 rankings, released on 31st October, 2017, India has jumped up by 30 places and is now placed at 100 out of 190 countries.




In this regard Spain highlighted that it has improved 4 places, staying now the position 28. The Spanish side acknowledged the progress made in India, expressing its congratulations for the strength of the Indian economy resulting in an impressive economic growth.

2.2. Bilateral Trade

2.2.1.

The Spanish side made a short presentation on bilateral trade and investment relations of the two countries. Spain exported to India 1.26 billion euros in 2016. Spain pointed out the exporting opportunities in some economic sectors and the growing interests of Spanish companies, nowadays more than 180 based in India.

The Indian side stated that Spain is India's one of the most important trading partners in European Union (7th largest trading partner in European Union). During the year 2016-17 Bilateral trade between the two countries stood at US\$ 5.39 billion (Export at US\$ 3.42 billion and Import at US\$ 1.97 billion). The bilateral trade witnessed a growth of 10.46 % (export growth 5.80% and import growth 19.61%) as compared to the year 2015-16. In 2017-18 (April –November) the Bilateral trade stood at US\$ 3.63 billion (growth of 13.02%) with Export at US\$ 2.51Billion (growth of 15.74%) and Import at US\$ 1.12billion (growth of 7.35%).

2.2.2. Market Access

a) Fruits

The Spanish side mentioned that export conditions for fruit and vegetables are very restrictive and the Plant Quarantine requires a pre-shipment cold treatment and fumigation with Methyl Bromide for three products (grapes, apples and persimmon). The Spanish side hoped that the notification of the amendment to the Plant Quarantine with the new revised conditions for exports could be expedited.

The Indian side stated that the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is already examining this issue.

Grapes:

The Indian side mentioned that with regard to EU Regulation No. 2017/555 dated 24th March, 2017, which proposes the reduction in Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) of Chloromequat Chloride Component (CCC) in grapes, from 0.05 mg/kg to 0.01 mg/kg, lowering of the MRL would adversely affect India's exports to EU and suggested that the same may be maintained at the existing level i.e 0.05mg/kg. The Spanish side took note, however the decision on that respect is taken at EU level



b) Meat products

The Spanish side welcomed the amending in October 2017 of the export health certificate for pork and products that will allow exports of pork products that have been cured with bone. Spain expressed its interest in exporting day old chicks to India and suggested the acceptance of regionalization in the health certificate. The Indian side informed that India has revised the pork meat certificate in 2015 where in the regionalization principle for Aujeszky disease Foot and Mouth disease, African Swine Fever has been considered. It was noted that presently India and Spain have agreed on the certificate for import of pork and pork products.

The Indian side stated that the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries would be requested to take necessary action in this issue.

c) Olive oil

The health benefits that olive oil has and its contribution to promote healthy habits were outlined. The Spanish side expressed the potential of the olive oil in the Indian market and welcomed the support of India to promote Spanish exports. Lower tariffs and taxes as well as promotion campaigns will help in this regard. The Indian side stated that it takes note of the Spanish concerns.

d) Marine & Aquaculture products

The Indian sides stated that India is the 9th largest exporter to Spain under chapter 03. The total exports to Spain have also increased over the past years and current exports from India are 53,004 MT fetching a revenue of USD 233 million. Chilled and Frozen items are also exported to Spain from India. The frozen squid exports has increased by 10% in quantity and 38.8% compared to the previous year. The total potential of fishery products in Spanish market is USD 7376 million (2016) and India's contribution is only about 3.15%.

The Indian side informed that seafood establishments listed with EU have both aquaculture and sea caught in their scope. When an establishment is delisted for export of aquaculture due to non-compliance for prohibited anti-biotic, they are not able to export sea caught material also where there is no issue of anti-biotic. The Indian side requested that delisting in such circumstances may be only for aquaculture.

The Indian side informed that the higher rate of sampling of 50% adopted by EU is becoming a trade barrier for Indian export of aquaculture shrimps. The Spanish side underlined that the decision on that respect is taken at EU level.



e) Agri products

- (i) The Indian side has been raising the issue of restoring equivalency for organic processed food products with EU. Now, India has notified its standards under Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Act and accordingly EU could apply for equivalency to India and restore the equivalency for Indian processed organic products on a reciprocal basis.
- (ii) Rice -The Indian side stated that regulations regarding change in MRL of fungicides, such as Carbendazim and Tricyclazole (TCA), affect basmati rice exports to EU, including to Spain. The EU has notified a new MRL for TCA vide Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/983 dated 9th June, 2017 takes effect after 30th December, 2017. It is felt that time given for transition is inadequate. The manufacturer of the fungicide, Dow Agro Sciences (DAS) have submitted an application to Italy (as a rapporteur Member state) seeking import tolerance for husked rice at 0.4 mg/kg and India hopes for an early resolution.
- (iii) Chillies and Spices- There are stringent EU parameters restricting the level of aflatoxins in imported food products, such as peanuts, chillies and other spices for aflatoxin B1 at 5 ppb and the total at 10 ppb applicable for chillies and several other spices while US permits aflatoxin levels of 20 ppb for all spices Also, permissible amounts in the EU are varied across different spice categories, which can be confusing for exporters. The Spanish side took note, however the decision in this respect is taken at EU level.

f) Rapid Alert System

The Indian side suggested that regarding Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF), there should be due diligence before issuing alerts, the analytical report of laboratory based on which alerts are issued may be shared with the Competent Authority in India in English language. Further, the alert may be removed from the RASFF system in case of compliance during re-testing and the withdrawal process should be made easier.

The Spanish side noted that the RASFF is a system established by EU regulation and managed by EU authorities. There are mechanisms to facilitate the information to importers and Indian institutions, including direct contact with Spanish authorities, when the case is initiated in Spain. According to the EU regulation, importers are the responsible for the products being marketed in the EU.

g) Milk products

The Indian side mentioned that India is seeking market access for prepared food products (like palak paneer, parantha, etc.) which have milk/animal origin products in very small quantities as ingredients. These are processed at very high temperatures leaving no scope for animal disease issue. The Spanish side noted that the regulation



of requirements to export milk products is adopted by the EU Commission. They informed that they understand that India has not initiated the process for authorization yet. India could initiate the process anytime. There will be no opposition from Spain.

h) Poultry Products

The Indian side requested for market access for poultry products, eggs and poultry meat to EU from recognized compartments free from Avian Influenza as per OIE guidelines may be processed quickly.

i) Other barriers

The Spanish side expressed its concern on very high tariffs on alcoholic beverages, including wine, in India. The Free trade Agreement between India and the EU may contribute to introduce an important reduction in tariffs. The price cut mechanism should allow Spanish wines to benefit from the preferential tariffs. Taxes and excises at the state level were highlighted, resulting on an additional barrier for trade. Spain requested the Indian Government to inform of any plans for the reduction of tariffs or, at least, harmonization and rationalization of state taxation that could facilitate trade, not only for imported beverages but also for local alcoholic production.

The Indian side informed that under the federal structure, State Governments are empowered to tax alcoholic beverages.

2.2.3. Commercial promotion actions

The Spanish side expressed that India represents a priority in the Spanish internationalization strategy. Many Spanish companies participated in diverse fair trades and events in India in 2017, and the promotion activities had been undertaken by trade missions, reverse trade mission, workshops, and B2B meetings. Spain expressed its willingness to repeat these successful promotion activities in India in 2018 with the participation of Spanish companies.

The Indian side mentioned that Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) participated in the 2nd Spain-India Forum held at Madrid, Spain, on 16 November 2017. The Forum focused on renewable, clean and efficient energy, with the goal to promote a constructive bilateral dialogue between both the countries to work together for sustainable solutions and innovative projects that will lead to a long-term energy mix. India also participated with a dedicated 'Make in india' pavilion at Smart City Expo World Congress 2016, Barcelona, Spain. A large Indian delegation comprising Centre, States and Urban Local Bodies including Smart City SPVs and private sector companies participated in SCEWC 2017.



2.3. Bilateral investment

2.3.1 The Spanish side showed the considerable progress of figures over the years. In terms of stock, in 2011 Spanish investment in India reached 358 M€ and in 2015, this stock increased up to 803 M€. Spain although noted that both parts have still to work to increase investment flows as there is further potential to develop and expressed the special interest for Spanish companies in various sectors.

The Indian side noted that there are nearly 40 Indian companies in Spain mainly in software & IT services, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and logistics. The Indian Side also informed about the following initiatives taken by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Government of India:

- (i) Rationalisation of FDI Policy - Rationalisation and liberalisation of FDI Policy is the constant endeavour of Government of India which has put in place an investor-friendly policy on FDI, under which FDI up to 100% is permitted, under the automatic route, in most sectors/activities. FDI policy is reviewed on an ongoing basis, with a view to making it more investor friendly. Significant changes have been made in the FDI policy regime in recent times, to ensure that India remains increasingly attractive and investor-friendly.
- (ii) Make in India- Government of India has launched 'Make in India' initiative to make India a global manufacturing hub. This is a major drive to foster innovation, enhance skill development, protect intellectual property and build Best-in-Class manufacturing infrastructure. In Make in India initiative, an effort has been made to facilitate, assist and hand-hold investors and ensure that they are able to establish and operationalize their industry and business in India without facing hurdles and systemic delays.
- (iii) Ease of Doing Business- Ease of doing business is a fundamental priority of our Government's Make in India campaign. The Central along with State Governments has undertaken a strategic and comprehensive reform package over the last two and a half years which has greatly contributed to strengthening investor confidence. The emphasis has been on simplification and rationalization of the existing rules and introduction of information technology to make governance more efficient, effective, simple and user-friendly.
- (iv) Startup India - Startup India is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, intended to build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and Startups in the country that will drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities. The efforts of the government are aimed at empowering Startups to grow through innovation and design. It is intended to provide the much needed impetus for the Startups to launch and to scale greater heights.



2.3.1. BIT España-India

The Spanish side expressed its strong political will to resume the negotiations and to reach an ambitious and comprehensive global agreement between the EU and India, especially with regard to investment protection, given that the bilateral BIT is terminated. Spain expressed that having a clear and stable investment framework is a key aspect to foster bilateral investment flows. It was highlighted the importance of promoting and enhancing bilateral investment flows and the Spanish side asked which are the main problems or barriers that Indian investors find in Spain.

The Indian side welcomed the positive approach towards resumption of India EU BITA negotiations and informed that Investment was an integral part of the proposed India-EU BTIA. The Spanish side expressed that it corresponds to the EU and India to reach an ambitious and comprehensive agreement.

2.3.2. Investment attraction activities

The Spanish side highlighted the importance of the work made by ICEX-Invest in Spain in order to foster the bilateral investment flows, remarking that regarding the main activity in India, ICEX-Invest in Spain has been managing investment projects of Indian companies in Spain, some of them materialized in concrete projects. The Program In-Company was highlighted for its contribution to find Indian companies with a potential interest for investing in Spain in various sectors.

The Indian side mentioned that Invest India is the national investment promotion and facilitation agency of India and acts as the first point of reference for investors in India. Invest India is facilitating in identifying and solving problems faced by Spanish companies and investors with their operations in India.

The Indian side also mentioned that that some Indian Companies have faced a few difficulties in getting visas for business travel. India mentioned that in order to encourage investments in Spain, it is imperative that there should be an appropriate visa regime that encourages multiple visits for business community. The Spanish side took note and highlighted that procedures for business visas are well implemented.

Currently, there are existing agreements between Indian and Spanish banks to provide trade finance and investment banking services to their clients in India, Spain and Latin America. India however proposed that opening of branch of a bank from India in Spain will go a long way to encourage Indian investment.

Indian Pharma industry has pointed out that complex procedures in Spain for registration of medicines and approval of reference price make it difficult for Indian generics manufacturers to cater to the growing market in Spain owing to the need for cost-effective healthcare. The issue was raised during past rounds of JCEC meetings. A conference call between the regulators from both sides may be organized to discuss this issue in greater detail.



3. FOLLOW-UP OF MOU's AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

The Spanish side expressed its readiness to work in the near future on negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the field of urban development in order to promote projects in the sector of smart cities.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 26th October, 2012 between the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India and the Ministry of Public Works and Transport of the Kingdom of Spain for mutual cooperation agreements and transfer of technology in the field of Road and Road Transport. Spain expressed its interest in further extension. However, during the visit of the Hon'ble PM of India to Spain on 31st May, 2017 several MoUs/Agreements were signed.

India looks forward to further action taken from both the sides on the MoUs and Agreements signed during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Spain in October 2017.

4. FINANCIAL COOPERATION: SECTORS OF COOPERATION

4.1. Spanish instruments for internationalization



The Spanish side presented the financial instruments used by the Secretary of State for Trade to support the internationalization of Spanish companies: providing capital (equity) and quasi-capital to the investment projects of the companies directly, through the FIEX and FONPYME instruments (managed by COFIDES), the loans in concessional or commercial way, to both public and private entities not resident in Spain through the FIEM, and the credit risk insurance managed by CESCE. Spain expressed that India represents a priority in the Spanish internationalization strategy and offered the financial support through FIEM to help the Indian side to develop projects where Spanish companies have a particular expertise. The Spanish side asked for exploring ways to make a more efficient use of the Spanish financial instruments to develop projects of mutual interest.

The Indian side noted the proposal of the Spanish side and agreed to convey to the Ministry concerned. The concerned Ministry can be approached through the diplomatic channel.

4.2. SECTORS OF COOPERATION

4.2.1. Railways

The Spanish side noted its significant national and international experience and knowledge in key sectors as transport infrastructure, where India needs technology and foreign direct investment in order to achieve its big plans for the future as a global manufacturing hub. Spanish companies can help India in both: building new high-speed lines as well as improving conventional existing lines.



Spain, with the world's second, and the longest European high-speed line in service, can be a reliable partner to India in its plans to implement the Diamond Quadrilateral project in order to establish high-speed rail network. The Spanish side reminded also that Spain is an undisputed leader in the field of designing and high-speed rail projects, information and signaling systems, infrastructure construction and maintenance, and traffic management.

Spain expressed its willingness to see Spanish companies being involved in the future development of the high-speed railways corridors, and highlighted the proposal made by the Spanish Secretary of State for Trade to the Ministry of Railways regarding the possibility of making a Pilot action to improve a conventional line by reducing traveling times and increasing safety and capacity. In order to implement this pilot action, Spain can provide funds through The Spanish Fund for Internationalization (FIEM), as long as Spanish companies participate in this project.

Indian side informed that they appreciate the work being done by various Spanish companies in these áreas and that they have made note of the proposal and agreed to convey to the Ministry concerned for further action.

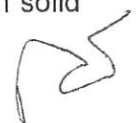
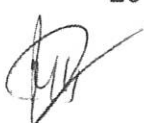
4.2.2. Smart Cities

The Spanish side reminded that its companies possess a rich experience on Smart Cities and can provide an integral know-how on all aspects needed to build them: design, urbanism, transportation, sanitation, traffic, electricity, etc. Spain expressed it would be honoured to share this experience and to work with the Indian side to develop new technologies to attain these goals, and highlighted the possibility of signing a MoU in the field of Smart Cities to contribute to foster this collaboration.

As regards bilateral engagement with Spain in this area, the Indian side informed that they are working in the direction of resolving issues involved such as establishing a G2G cooperation framework, cutting delays in decision making related to smart cities projects in India and seeking clarity on financing options available from the Spanish government. The Indian side suggested that it will be appropriate to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for overall sustainable urban development between both the countries for which a draft MoU has already been shared by the concerned Ministry from the Indian side. For city-specific cooperation in Smart Cities Mission, it will be appropriate, if Spanish Agencies explore possibilities for having such MoUs with States/Smart Cities.

On the other the hand, the Spanish side suggested the possibility of having an MOU in financial cooperation in the field of urban development early.

The Prime Minister of India, in his official interactions during his visit to Spain in May 2017, informed the Spanish side of the government's mission-mode projects in solid



waste and water management and invited Spanish companies and research institutes to actively explore opportunities in India in these areas. PM also encouraged Spanish companies to contribute to the Clean Ganga Project.

4.2.3. Water treatment

The Spanish side noted its companies are world leaders in water treatment, desalination and water treatment plants, and Spain is a top producer of desalinated water in Europe and Latin America. At present there is already a varied Spanish business presence in this sector in India, and Spain considers that a very relevant initiative could be the help of Spain in the revitalization of the Yamuna river, that would imply the recovery not only of the natural resources of the river but also the lands nearby.

The Indian side stated that as per agreed minutes of the 10th Session of JCEC, clean water technology through desalination may be shared through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and European Union.

4.2.4. Agriculture

The Spanish side noted that although both Parties have worked in the promotion of agricultural cooperation and a MoU was signed in 2009, there is still work to enhance the collaboration. There are Spanish companies willing to invest further in the area of management of water resources, micro-nutrients, bio-pesticides, vegetable production, supply chain and agricultural marketing and distribution.

Several programmes funded by CDTI, Centre for Development of Technological Research, encourage the collaboration between companies and institutions for applied research from both countries.

The Indian side suggested that cooperation in skill development programmes, technology transfer, crop residue management technology are potential areas of cooperation with Spain in agriculture sector.

The Indian side also informed that there was a potential for export of agricultural machines from India to Spain like tractors, tillers, seed drills etc, which can be considered by the Spanish side.

The Indian side also informed that there is a vast opportunity for investing in agri-infrastructure including warehousing, cold chains, grading, sorting, and packaging and thus there is huge demand for cold storage equipment in India. Food processing sector has been identified as one of the key areas in "Make in India" campaign and several initiatives including exemption of duties on import of machinery have been declared.



4.2.5. Food processing

The Spanish side expressed the growing interest of Spanish companies in the Indian market, where there are Spanish food and beverage brands based in India with production facilities and we foresee an increase in the investments made by Spanish companies in this promising sector. The Spanish side congratulated the Government of India for the policies and measures taken to promote and facilitate FDI.

The Spanish side reminded that through ICEX is actively promoting the presence of Spanish technology in India, where it has been organized a seminar in November 2017, bringing Spanish companies to Mumbai to better understand the market and find potential partners.

The Indian side informed that there are several investment proposals in the pipeline in cold chain, frozen food and other food processing areas. There is State-level cooperation in saffron cultivation under the National Saffron Mission. High value vegetables, agricultural mechanization, greenhouses and irrigation systems are other focus areas with significant potential for joint ventures and investments.

4.2.6. Science & Technology

The Spanish side referred to the India – Spain Committee in Science, Technology and Innovation held on the 1st September 2017 in Madrid, at which a set of actions were defined with the aim of improving the collaboration between both countries in Science and Technology. The Joint Statement established the momentum of the collaboration between both countries in science, technology and innovation, including key cooperation areas such as astrophysics, renewable energies, oncology, biotechnology and nanotechnology.

Meeting of India-Spain Science, Technology and Innovation Steering Committee was held at Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness in Madrid on 1st September, 2017. It reviewed the status of the on-going activities in Science Technology, Innovation Collaboration and explored new opportunities to expand the cooperation agenda, keeping in cognizance the summit statement issued following the meeting between the P.M. of India and President of Spain in May 2017.

4.2.7. Pharmaceuticals

The Spanish side congratulated the Indian side for the leading role of Indian pharmaceutical sector in the global pharmaceutical industry. They also mentioned that despite the great importance of the Indian market and the potential of pharmaceutical demand, the presence of Spanish companies in India is still very limited. On the other hand, many Indian companies have accessed and are running operations in Spain, paving the way for technological, production and distribution agreements with their Spanish counterparts.



Indian side informed that pharmaceuticals is a key sector for Indian investments in Spain. Spain also caters to North African countries and could be an ideal base for production and/or distribution centres.

The Indian side stated that the registration process and pricing of drugs in Spain is complex and long. It was discussed during the bilateral meeting between India's Secretary of Commerce and Spanish Secretary of Trade in October, 2015 that in order to facilitate the process of registration for pharma products which have already received approval from EU, a meeting of Regulators from both the sides should be arranged. Secretary Commerce, GoI stated that there has been a stand still in the matter and proposed that a meeting may be organised within the next three months so that the momentum gained due to the discussion is not lost.

4.2.8. Transport and transport infrastructure


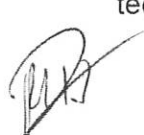
Airports -The Spanish side offered the expertise of Spanish companies to collaborate in the modernization of India's airport infrastructure. Spain expressed also that Spanish design companies and architecture studios have worked and are recognized internationally to perfectly offer the service that India demands to create comfortable, attractive airports to give a positive image of the country for the visitors.

Ports - The Spanish side reminded its vast experience in improving ports infrastructures and suggested cooperation in this area where Spanish companies can help in the modernization and automatization of processes in customs. Spain is aware of current Indian works to improve port infrastructure and navigability of big rivers in order to help to meet Indian manufacturers and exporters demands of solving current bottlenecks in transport.

4.2.9. ICT

The Spanish side referred to the Indian Government program "Digital India", which aims to transform India into a global and digitally advanced economy, and noted that the number of Spanish companies in the sector in India is still very limited.

Spain reminded that from 22nd to 24th May 2018 will be held in Madrid the Digital Business World Congress (DES 2018), in which India will be a Country Partner. Both sides agreed to promote a large presence of Indian companies in the event, so as to entail a good opportunity to encourage agreements for the joint development of new technologies between companies of both countries.



4.2.10. Tourism

The Spanish side expressed satisfaction about the bilateral interaction in the sector of tourism. The 2006 agreement on air frequency service and the direct flight operated by Air India since December 2016, have helped to boost tourism on both sides.

The Indian side stated that Spain is one of India's primary source markets. From 27th November 2014, India is offering Electronic Visa for the Spanish citizens. The tourist traffic from Spain to India is usually in the summer months of July and August. This provides business to the Indian tourism industry during the lean tourism season.

India and Spain share similarities in their tourism products with both the countries being looked upon as cultural destinations. Both countries therefore have an enormous scope for cooperation in the tourism sector.

4.2.11. Renewable energies

The Spanish side offered the Indian side the expertise of its companies in the renewable energy sector, where they are between the world leaders in wind power generation and solar power generation, as a pioneer nation which has developed an experienced a cost competitive industry. Their knowledge and expertise would help India to achieve its goal of 100 GW of solar energy, 60 GW of wind energy and 10 GW of biomass for the year 2022.

The Spanish side offered India its experience to achieve a better grid performance and smart grid technology, given that Spain has the expertise of managing a national grid with a high presence of renewable energy, and that in 2016, 41,1% of the power generated in Spain has been produced by renewable sources.

The Indian side stated that renewable energy is one of the most important sectors in our bilateral economic cooperation. Spanish companies, especially in the wind sector are market leaders in India with installed capacity of more than 5,000 MW and several manufacturing units and assembling plants to cater to Indian and third country markets.

The Indian side stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), India and Ministry of Energy, Tourism and Digital Agenda of Spain has been signed on 30th May, 2017. The Indian side requested Spain to constitute Joint Working Group (JWG) under the MoU so that meeting could be held on mutually agreed dates.



5. BILATERAL BUSINESS FORUM & SUMMIT

5.1. India – Spain CEOs Forum

The Spanish side expressed the relevance of the CEOs Forum as an initiative to boost our bilateral economic and commercial relations and a bilateral consultative mechanism that brings together, as frequently as necessary, the largest and best corporate entities of both countries, in an effort to find ways of strengthening their two-way trade and investment relationship.

The Spanish side reminded the celebration of the first meeting of the India-Spain CEO Forum in Madrid on 31 May 2017, and expressed its willingness that the efforts made until date in order to give an impetus to the CEOs Forum must be maintained. The second formal meeting of the CEOs Forum could be held in Delhi during the year 2018 in the context of a high-level visit.

Both sides pointed out that all the groups created under the CEO Forum should work in a focussed manner and target specific outcomes.

5.2. India – Spain Business Summit

As agreed in the Joint Statement issued during the official visit of the Prime Minister of India to Spain in May 2017, the India Spain Business Summit is proposed to be held in India at a mutually convenient time. This Business event will be organised in the context of a high-level visit. The Spanish side conveyed the willingness from the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness to contribute to the success of the India – Spain Business Summit during this year 2018, as an outstanding opportunity to promote the bilateral economic relation. The Indian side also encouraged Spanish businesses to further strengthen their interaction with the States in India.

6. MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

6.1. EU-India BITA negotiations

The Indian side informed that after EU showed interest, productive meetings of Chief Negotiators of both sides took place in 2017. Apart from the overall discussion on the 'way forward', respective leads are engaging to address issues in their tracks.

The Spanish side expressed its strong political will to resume the negotiations and to reach a big, ambitious and comprehensive global agreement between the EU and India.

India is committed to an early resumption and conclusion of India-EU BTIA.



7. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Both sides noted that the 11th Session of India-Spain Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation served as a venue to promote mutual understanding between the two countries. They agreed to build on this momentum and work more closely to advance the overall bilateral cooperation.

The two sides agreed that the 12th Session of India-Spain Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation between the Kingdom of Spain and India will take place in Delhi in 2019, on a date to be agreed through diplomatic channels.

Done in Madrid on 18th January of 2018, and signed in English.

**Secretary of State for Trade of
the Kingdom of Spain**



**María Luisa
PONCELA GARCÍA**

**Commerce Secretary of the
Indian Ministry of Commerce and
Industry**



**Rita
TEAOTIA**