

EU – India Business Roundtable

Intervenção de António Saraiva, Presidente da CIP

Porto, 8 de maio de 2021

Greetings to all and Welcome to the EU-India Business Roundtable, organised on the occasion of the EU-India Leaders meeting, which will take place, today, in Porto, in just a couple of hours.

The pandemic situation we are all facing forced us to hold this event in a virtual format. In fact, my first words, are addressed to the people of India showing our deepest solidarity for the difficult times your country is facing due to covid-19.

We, the Business Community, are with you and we will continue to mobilize efforts to provide with the medical devices you need to fight covid and save lives.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As President of the Confederation of Portuguese Business (CIP), I am honoured to welcome you digitally and to host this Business Roundtable organised in cooperation with BusinessEurope and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and with the support of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

As a Portuguese national, I would like to stress the very special multi-secular relation between Portugal and India in many fields, from trade to culture, science, and social. Indeed, Portugal was the first European country to establish a maritime commercial route with India more than 500 years ago.

But more than talking about the past, we are gathered today in this venue to focus on the present and on how will these two great blocs - Europe and India - work together to face the challenges of today and to build a brighter common future.

We are joining together the European and Indian representatives of the private sector, aiming at strengthening economic relations and to build a platform of cooperation and business opportunities between our entrepreneurs. We have selected top leaders and CEOs from both Europe and India to help us to pave ways for cooperation under the topics of digital, health and climate.

Cofinanciado por:



We have set an ambitious agenda and we wish not only to bring our businessmen closer together, but to shape the EU-India Economic agenda in its many topics, so that companies may be an important driver for a successful rapprochement between the two economic blocs.

You can count on CIP - the Confederation of Portuguese Business - to push forward EU-India relations.

I wish you all a very productive meeting.
Thank you.