

The EU-India FTA: A turning point for sustainable industrial transformation?

Leveraging trade, investment and technology partnerships to support India's low-carbon steel transition

Report Launch and Policy Dialogue

Date: 30 April 2026

Location: India International Centre, New Delhi

Hosts: TULIP Consulting | TERI | RIS

On 27 January 2026, after nearly two decades of negotiations, India and the European Union (EU) concluded a free trade agreement and a Joint EU-India Comprehensive Strategic Agenda. The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) was a key sticking point during the negotiations. The brokered outcome reflects compromises from both sides: while it does not include CBAM exemptions requested by Indian negotiators, the two blocs ultimately agreed to strengthen cooperation around various technical aspects of the CBAM. Beyond CBAM, the EU-India trade deal also provides a framework for linking trade and climate objectives, with the potential to reshape the integration of clean value chains and accelerate sustainable industrial transformation.

Current geopolitical crises are showing why decarbonisation is critical for both India and the EU, two of the world's major importers of fossil fuels. For India, the steel sector sits at the centre of this transition. India's steel industry is the fastest-growing in the world: by 2050, India will produce 20% of the world's steel, up from 5% today. India also has the highest levels of greenhouse gas emissions per ton of steel among the world's top steel producers – about 30% above the global average. As a result, the sector's transition will play a decisive role in India achieving its national climate goals, including its 2070 net-zero target. Given the projected growth of India's steel industry, its sustainable transformation is also critical for global climate mitigation.

The EU-India agreement is reshaping the bloc's economic relations. It also offers an opportunity to build a forward-looking framework for climate cooperation, that in turn can serve as a catalyst for deeper collaboration across areas such as green technologies, industrial innovation, climate finance, and low-carbon value chains. EU-India cooperation on green steel can become a strategic pillar of the partnership, helping both sides align trade policy with climate ambitions, while strengthening economic ties.

This event features the launch of a new report titled “CBAM and Beyond: Leveraging EU–India Trade Cooperation to Greening Indian Steel”, which explores ways to strengthen EU-India cooperation on steel decarbonization. The findings of the report will serve as a conversation starter, to further explore how to use the momentum created by the EU-India FTA, as well as the enormous challenge at hand, to obtain concrete and mutually beneficial outcomes around transitioning towards low-carbon steel.

Bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, and researchers, this event will explore how EU–India cooperation can support India's sustainable industrial transformation, particularly its transition to low-carbon steel production, while maintaining open, sustainable trade.

Public Session

This is a high-level public event focused on leveraging EU-India cooperation to strengthen sustainable industrial transformation, with a particular focus on Indian steel.

Location: India International Centre, Seminar Halls 1 and 2

Time	Session
09:30 – 09:35	Opening Remarks: Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS
09:35 – 09:45	Scene Setting: Ms. Leena Nandan, Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
09:45 – 10:05	Report Launch and Presentation “CBAM and Beyond: Leveraging EU–India Trade Cooperation for Greening Indian Steel” <u>Presenter:</u> TULIP Consulting
10:05 – 11:05	High-Level Panel Discussion The EU-India FTA: A Turning Point for Climate Cooperation? <u>Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Pascal Lamy, Former Director-General, World Trade Organization, Former Director General, Trade, European Commission • Mr. Mohan Kumar, Former Indian Ambassador to France <u>Moderator:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Colette van der Ven, Executive Director, TULIP Consulting
11:05 – 11:15	Closing Remarks: Mr. Ujal Singh Bhatia, Former Appellate Body Member, WTO
11:15 – 11:40	Coffee Break & Networking

Closed-Door Expert Roundtable (by invitation only)

This roundtable discussion, which will take place under Chatham House Rule, will be a technical session focused on identifying opportunities and challenges to produce low-carbon steel in India and on how to strategically leverage EU-India collaboration.

Location: India International Centre, Conference Room II

Time	Session
11:45 – 11:50	Welcome Address , Ms.Colette van der Ven, Executive Director, TULIP Consulting
11:50 – 12:00	Setting the Scene Remarks by the Chairs (5 minutes each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Pascal Lamy, Former Director-General, WTO • Mr. Anup Wadhawan, Former Commerce Secretary, India
12:00 – 12:25	Discussion Starters Short interventions by invited discussants reacting to the report's key findings (3 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bartosz Przywara, Energy, Climate and Environment Counsellor, EU Delegation to India • Mr. Arpan Gupta, Director & Head - Mines, Metals, Cement, Power and Hydrocarbons, FICCI • Mr. Sivaram Krishnamoorthy, Director, Industry, SED Fund • Mr. Prosanto Pal, Director, TERI • Mr. Atul Kaushik, Fellow, RIS • Ms. Anuradha R.V., Partner, Clarus Law
12:25 – 13:00	Open Discussion <i>Guiding questions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key technological obstacles to decarbonising Indian steel, and what forms of EU-India cooperation could address these? • How can the EU and India strengthen cooperation between the Emission Trading Scheme/CBAM and the CCTS? • What mechanisms could help mitigate compliance and cost burdens for Indian MSMEs under CBAM? • How can Indian and EU firms be better integrated along the low-carbon steel value chain? What opportunities does this present for strategic investments (e.g., green hydrogen)? • What forms of institutional engagements should be set up to ensure that the voices of relevant stakeholders are heard in policy discussions around trade and low-carbon steel? • In what ways can the EU-India FTA and Strategic Framework be leveraged to take these conversations further?
13:00 – 13:10	Concluding Reflections by the Chairs
13:10 – 13:15	Closing Note by the Hosts
13:15 – 14:00	Networking Lunch