

July 25, 2017

**Embassy of India
Brussels**

Press Release

Smt. Gaitri Issar Kumar, today presented credentials as Head of India's Mission to the European Union. The letters of credence were received by His Excellency, Mr. Donald Tusk, President of the European Council. President Tusk, who has been Prime Minister of Poland from 2007 to 2014, is presently in the second term of his Presidency of the European Council (July 1, 2017 to November 30, 2019). He and European Commission President, Jean Claude Juncker, will lead the EU delegation at the India-EU Summit meetings to be held in New Delhi in October 2017.

2. India and the EU are currently working together to broaden their cooperation and strengthen their strategic partnership. The EU is India's largest trade partner (about USD 80 billion in 2016) and the biggest source of FDI inflows into India (USD 81.52 billion). Both India and the EU share a strong commitment to democratic values, rule of law and pluralism. India considers the European Union to be an essential pillar in today's multi-polar world order.

3. In the run up to the forthcoming India - EU Summit, coordination meetings have been held including the meeting of the India-EU Joint Commission - held on 14th July, 2017. In the coming weeks, high level consultations will take place on a range of subjects on the India-EU Summit Agenda - including foreign policy and security issues, India - EU cooperation to address the impact of climate change, sharing of technology and best practices for clean energy, urban development, innovation, research & training and cooperation in the field of aviation among others. During the India - EU Summit, key agreements will be signed to take the current cooperation further. Chief Negotiators of India and EU are presently discussing the options for the way forward - for re-launching negotiations for concluding an India - EU Trade and Investment Agreement.
