



STATUS NOTE: THE CENTRE AFTER 10 YEARS

(October 2011)

The Centre in hindsight:

The Centre celebrated its 10th anniversary at the 5th *EuroIndia Summit* in Leuven (Belgium) on the 13th of October 2011. It was founded in 2001 by late Mr. Raymond Barre, Prime Minister of France, and Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, and supported from inception by Bertrand Collomb, Jamshyd Godrej, Anand Mahindra, Nasser Munjee, PRS Oberoi, Deepak Parekh and Ratan Tata.

With the success of the its last Summit and preceding Indian Mission to Geneva, Grenoble, Paris, Brussels, Eindhoven, the Centre has come of age and finds itself at crossroads after ten eventful years:

After an Indian launch in Delhi in 2003, the Centre launched its *Civic Initiative* in 2006 at the behest of Dr Manmohan Singh; Having just launched the *Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission* to modernize the 63 largest cities of India, he wished that the Centre could play its part: *“This challenging mission [the J.N.N.U.R.M.] would be greatly facilitated if our cities could imbibe the wealth of experience and the state-of-the-art and know-how that European cities have developed over decades of being confronted to similar social and economic pressures”*.

The Centre went on organizing five EuroIndia Summits from 2007 till date, 2 in Goa (India), Valladolid (Spain), Halle (Germany), Leuven (Belgium) and five Indian Missions to Europe that have involved multiple cities and their stakeholders in twelve States of India and ten States of Europe.

It also facilitated the signing of three cooperation agreements between Ahmedabad and Halle (Germany), La Rochelle (France) and Valladolid (Spain) on Tourism Promotion, Vocational Training, Energy Saving and Heritage Conservation.

In 2008, the Centre unveiled its *F.L.Y. A. Green K.I.T.E.* strategy to build a unique institutional exchange platform at local level, covering **Green** Initiatives, **Knowledge** management, **Investment** and business, **Tourism** and culture and **Environmentally** sustainable urban development and bring about enduring win-win co-operations between Cities, Regions and States of Europe and India and their stakeholders: companies, academic and research institutes, NGOs & professionals to boost the economic development, social inclusiveness and environmental sustainability of cities.



In 2010 the *Environmentally Sustainable City Award (ESCA)* was launched to promote higher standards of sustainable development in cities located in Europe and India. At the last EuroIndia Summit in 2011, the first ESCA's have been awarded to Mysore and Vijaywada and the latter's technical partner *Arvee Associates* by Indian Minister for Urban Development, Mr. Kamal Nath. 29 Indian cities had sent applications, which were screened by a jury of three consisting of Prof. Dr. Ronnie Belmans, Professor, *K.U. Leuven* and Chairman of the *European Smart Grids Platform*; Kartikeya V. Sarabhai, Director, *Centre for Environment Education*, Ahmedabad, and Dr. Harjit Singh Anand, Co-President of the Centre.

The Centre was also instrumental in breaking new official grounds in Euro-Indian relations at the uncharted local level of governance: On the eve of the Leuven Summit, India's Minister for Urban Development, Mr. Kamal Nath, addressed the 92th plenary session of the *Committee of the Regions of the European Union* before their 300-odd region members, the first non-European to do so. The Centre also instigated the first-ever official lunch of Indian and European Mayors presided over by the Minister and the President of the Committee.

The Centre is also setting up a powerful 24/7 Internet platform to bring about a vibrant Euro-Indian dialogue, particular in the field of urban development and city cooperation. It presently consists of a library and a profiling system that facilitates Euro-Indian matching of interest. A discussion forum is also contemplated.

The Centre is supported by civic organizations such as: *the Government of India, the Committee of the Regions of the European Union, The European Commission, European New Towns and Pilot Cities Platform, ORU-FOGAR, Metropolis, Agence Nationale de Rénovation de l'Urbanisme (France), Deutscher Staedtetag (Germany), Cités Unies (France), FEMP (Spain), Romanian Municipalities Association, VVSG (Flanders), etc.*

And by corporate organizations such as: *the Confederation of Indian Industry, Business Europe, the Belgo-Indian Chamber of Commerce, CEOE (Spain), the Europe India Chamber of Commerce, the Indo-French CEO Forum, the Indo-Italian Chamber of Commerce, MEDEF (France), UK India Business Council, etc.*

Future prospects:

Riding on the above described momentum, the first priority of the Centre is to scale up its operations to the level of the huge untapped potential and expectations at the local level between India and Europe, starting with the 6th *EuroIndia Summit and Mission* that is slated to organized In India next.

With the support of the *Committee of the Regions* and the aforesaid European civic and corporate supporting organizations, the Centre plans to bring a large European delegation of cities, regions and their stakeholders to India to meet their Indian counterparts for fruitful discussions across the Green K.I.T.E. spectrum and at various venues across India, starting at Delhi, stopping at several States and culminating at the Summit.



The *Euro*India Centre

The Centre also intends to build up the ESCA as a defining moment in Euro-Indian relations at the city level and as a signaled contribution to promote urban environmental sustainability and fight global climate change.

Last but not least, the Centre intends to build our portal as the n°1 gateway for Indians and Europeans to dialogue over issues of common concern in the local context, with a particular focus on sustainable urban development with the hope to foster multiple co-operations among cities, regions, States and their concerned stakeholders.

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