



INDIA-EU VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE SERIES 2026



REIMAGINING INDIA & EUROPE

ONE SESSION, ONE CHAPTER,
ONE BREAKTHROUGH AT A TIME





ROUNDTABLE



UNLOCKING BOTTLENECKS IN THE INDIA-EU FTA

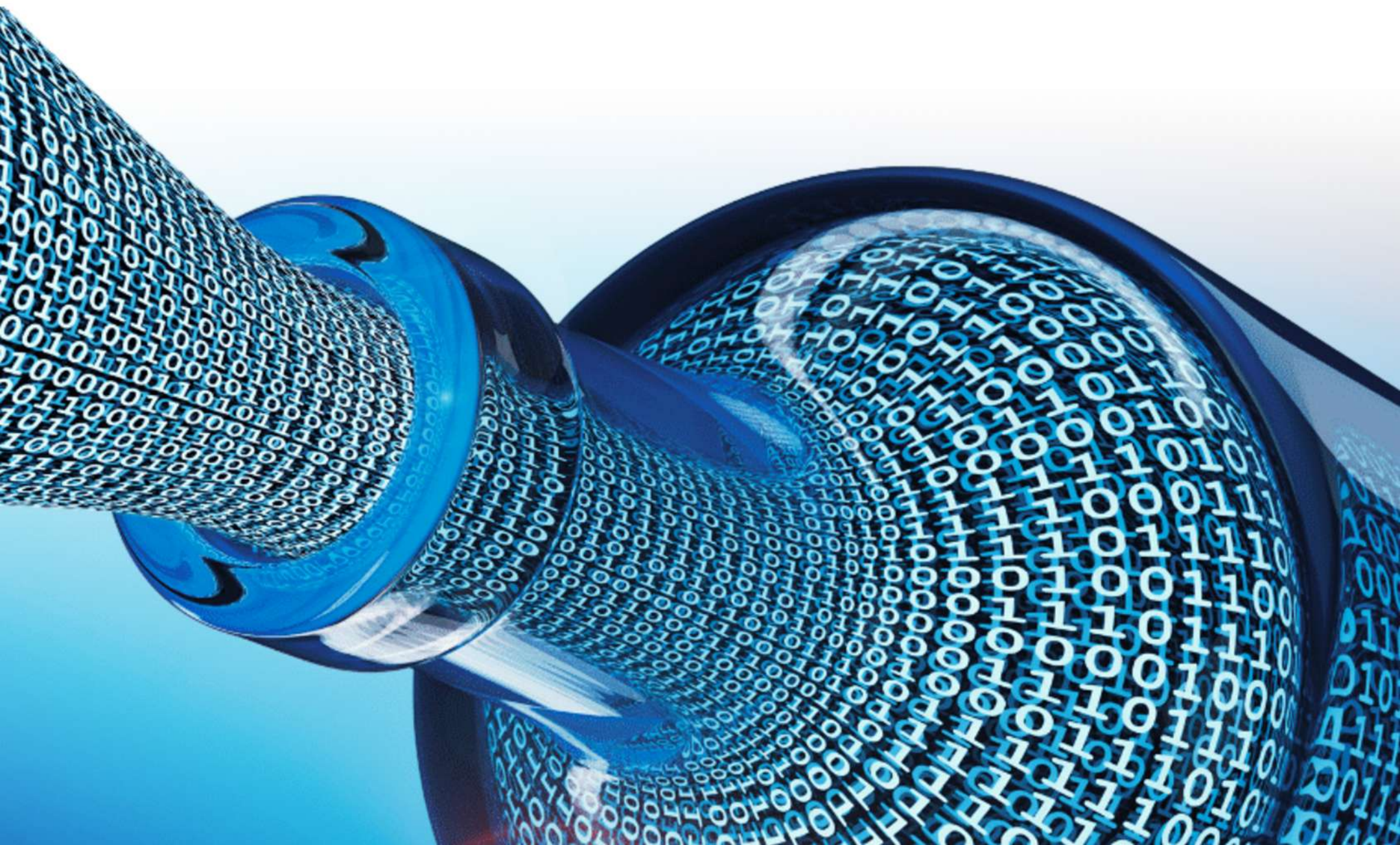
FORMAT : VIRTUAL

DURATION : 2 HOURS

DATE : 24TH JANUARY 2026

TIME : 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM IST (11:30 AM – 1:30 PM EU TIME)

HOSTED BY : EUROSCOPE @ GLOBAL EYE INTELLIGENCE





OVERVIEW



Negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union have made notable progress, with several technical chapters having been concluded and others broadly agreed upon in principle. However, a set of core economic and regulatory chapters remains partially open, forming the principal bottlenecks to the timely and balanced conclusion of the agreement.

These bottlenecks are not merely technical. They reflect deeper divergences in :

- economic structure and development levels,
- regulatory philosophies and compliance regimes,
- services, mobility and market access priorities, and
- sustainability and climate-linked trade measures.

The roundtable is being convened at a particularly consequential moment, with the European Union's top leadership expected to visit India around Republic Day 2026, alongside high-level India–EU engagement that is widely anticipated to place the FTA at the centre of discussions. This creates a narrow policy window where credible, structured recommendations can be especially valuable to stakeholders on both sides.

This roundtable will bring together experts to examine the most pressing bottlenecks, identify feasible pathways for convergence, and generate policy-ready recommendations aligned with negotiation realities.



SCOPE OF DISCUSSION



The roundtable will focus on structural, political, and regulatory bottlenecks that continue to delay or complicate convergence on the India–EU FTA. The scope includes :

- Examination of partially open chapters that are deal-defining
- Assessment of select open chapters that directly interact with unresolved areas
- Identification of trade-offs, sequencing options, and implementation flexibilities
- Consideration of domestic political constraints and ratification dynamics
- Exploration of how the FTA can remain balanced, development-sensitive, and future-oriented

The discussion will remain solution-driven and will aim to generate actionable inputs relevant to policymakers, negotiators, and stakeholders.





KEY THEMES



a. Market Access and Industrial Sensitivities

- **Tariff liberalisation vs protection of sensitive sectors**
- **Phasing mechanisms, safeguards, and calibrated exclusions**

b. Services Trade and Professional Mobility

- **Mode 4 feasibility under political constraints**
- **Recognition of qualifications and regulatory cooperation**

c. Sustainability, Climate, and Trade Conditionality

- **Trade and Sustainable Development commitments**
- **Climate-linked measures and transition/implementation flexibilities**

d. Supply Chains and Rules of Origin

- **Preventing trade deflection while enabling value-chain integration**

e. Digital and Investment Governance

- **Data governance differences and digital trade norms**
- **Investor protection and dispute settlement design**



KEY GUIDING QUESTIONS



Partially Open: Market Access for Goods

1. What are the most critical tariff-related bottlenecks in Market Access for Goods, and which sectors are politically non-negotiable for each side?
2. What sequencing models (staging, tariff-rate quotas, safeguards, carve-outs) can balance domestic sensitivities with meaningful market access?

Partially Open: Trade in Services

1. What forms of commitments under Trade in Services—including Mode 4—are politically feasible within the EU while still being meaningful for India?
2. Can sector-specific, skills-based, or quota-based mobility frameworks provide a pragmatic middle ground?

Partially Open: Trade and Sustainable Development

1. How can commitments under Trade and Sustainable Development be aligned with development realities without weakening credibility and enforceability?
2. What transition mechanisms, flexibilities, or cooperation instruments can reduce friction from climate-linked trade measures?



POLICY SUBMISSION



EUROSCOPE POLICY LAB

SUBMIT. GET SELECTED. BE PUBLISHED.
EARN YOUR INVITE TO THE ROUNDTABLE.





EUROSCOPE POLICY LAB



The EuroScope Policy Lab is being launched as a platform to empower young thinkers, emerging scholars, and student leaders across the Indian & European communities. Each month, the Lab invites submissions of concise and well-argued policy briefs across a wide range of strategic themes from geopolitics and energy transitions to technology governance, sustainable development, regional cooperation, and economic innovation.

The initiative is designed to identify promising policy talent, showcase cutting-edge ideas, and strengthen youth participation in Track II dialogue. Submissions will be reviewed by the Global Eye Intelligence team, and the top 07 policy briefs will be selected each month for recognition.

Among these, the top 7 authors will have their work published on the Global Eye Intelligence Tank, gaining visibility among senior experts, policymakers, and industry leaders. They will also receive an exclusive invitation to join a closed-door roundtable, where they will have the opportunity to engage directly with leading voices shaping the future of India and the EU.

The top 3 contributors will be offered an opportunity to join the Global Eye team as an Intern or Consultant, allowing them to participate and interact with Global Eye's strategic community.

CONNECT ON : EUROSCOPE@GLOBALEYEINTELLIGENCE.ONLINE



CALL FOR POLICY BRIEFS



FULLY OPEN CHAPTERS OF THE INDIA-EU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

JANUARY 2026





FULLY OPEN CHAPTERS



Euroscope @ Global Eye Intelligence invites students, scholars, researchers, policymakers and early-career professionals to submit original policy briefs exploring the fully open chapters of the ongoing India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

This public call focuses on thematic areas that offer broader conceptual and policy exploration beyond core market access negotiations, enabling innovative ideas on inclusive and sustainable trade dimensions.

This is an opportunity to contribute fresh perspectives to a pivotal economic partnership, gain visibility among policymakers, experts, and the Global Eye Intelligence community, and influence discourse on India-EU relations.

FOCUS AREAS

Fully open chapters of the FTA that allow wider conceptual and policy exploration, such as :

- MSMEs and Inclusive Trade
- Innovation, R&D, and Technology Cooperation
- Customs Facilitation and Trade Logistics
- Gender, Youth, and Development Dimensions of Trade



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FULLY OPEN CHAPTERS



PROCESS

- Open, competitive, and merit-based public call issued nationally and internationally
- Submissions reviewed by an editorial and expert committee

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELECTED AUTHORS

- Invitation to present their papers during the India-EU FTA Roundtable Series
- Special mention and feature in the Global Eye Intelligence Annual Report 2025
- Enhanced visibility among policymakers, experts, and institutional partners

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Word Limit: 1,500 to 2,500 words
2. Format & Structure: Articles must include the following sections:
 - Title
 - Executive Summary (200-300 words)
 - Introduction/Problem Statement
 - Core Analysis (insights, evidence, comparative examples)
 - Policy Recommendations (clear, actionable, prioritised)
 - Conclusion
 - References (if any)



FULLY OPEN CHAPTERS



FONT & STYLING REQUIREMENTS

- Font Style: Times New Roman
- Font Size: 12 pt
- Line Spacing: 1.5
- Alignment: Justified
- Margins: 1 inch on all sides
- File Format: PDF only
- File Name: FullName_IndiaEUFTA_Jan2026.pdf

SUBMISSION PROCESS

All entries must be submitted exclusively through the submission link provided on the Global Eye Intelligence website before 20th January 2026.

No email submissions will be accepted.

Organised by:
Euroscope @ Global Eye Intelligence

Delhi NCR – Ahmedabad – Mumbai

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BY GLOBAL EYE INTELLIGENCE



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INNOVATION & COLLABORATION



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CHALLENGES IN BRUSSELS



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REIMAGINING SPS COOPERATION IN THE
INDIA-EU TRADE PARTNERSHIP



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PATENTS & POWER

THE TUG OF IPR IN THE INDIA-EU FTA



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DEVELOPMENT SPACE VS. CLIMATE DISCIPLINE

CRAFTING A JUST GREEN DEAL BETWEEN
INDIA & THE EU



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SOVEREIGNTY VS. STANDARDS

THE REGULATORY CHESSBOARD
OF THE INDIA-EU FTA



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BEYOND TARIFFS

THE STRATEGIC PULSE OF INDIA-EU
SERVICES & INVESTMENT



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THE ART OF CONTROLLED OPENNESS

RECONCILING PROTECTIONISM & PARTNERSHIP
IN BALANCING TRADE REMEDIES



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