

Interest and Conflict in International Relations: In Case Of India and the European Union

Pradeep Kumar

Indo-European Center

Vistula University, Warsaw, Poland

E-mail: p.kumar@vistula.edu.pl

Abstract

The current situation and future predictions indicates about the new balance of power in International Relations. It is very much important to analyze relations between India and the European Union based on historical approach and contemporary relations. In 1957, India strongly disputed against the project of the common European market. India perceived the proposed common European market as a convention or agreement among the European nations with the sole aspiration to agreeing on preferential tariffs. Besides, India did not fully comprehend the European construction and its compliance to integrate through the actions of sovereign nations while India was constructed via the willingness of a centralized government to bring together the various provinces, region and also ethnic groups.

The relations between the European Union and India were set to go a notch higher after the implementation of "Free Trade Area" pact but due to hard discussion and long negotiation process it wasn't able to implement till 2012, which is expected to enhance the bilateral trade relations between the two entities.

Keywords: Interest, conflict, relations, India, EU, negotiation

Introduction

The relations between India and the European Union are friendly and culturally deep-rooted for over centuries. Current economic crisis and political integration process is forcing to the European Union to concentrate on internal and external policy making strategies. In the relation to the European Union's increasing external actions, the kind of strategic action and its goals are relevant to the model power and super power feature. A question rises with respect to European Union's behaviour for the short term and interests-based or whether or not it is an attempt to shape the short-term interests and systematic goals may be conflicting. Even though it is purported that the European Union is actively advancing its model across the world, the pragmatic policy making with Asia is broadly associated with the management of economic relations with the major nations, especially India and China, and to some

extent Association of South East Asian Nations. In this case, the European Union potentially mirrors routine behaviour and insinuates that the European Union is acting as a passive model power. In this case, the study also purposed to evaluate the role of the European Union and India.

The main purpose of the study was first to establish the evolution of India and the European Union relations and to determine the kind of obstacle for both the entities faced during the development process based on cross-culture and communication. The emphasis was in international business communication and conflicts. In relation to this, the study also sought to find out the factors that contributed to sustenance of the relationship. The study was done qualitatively by utilizing a historical case-study approach to research. The method used in data collection and analysis was textual reviews, comparison and establishments of facts and implications.

Lastly, the study sought to find out how the challenges were being resolved by the two entities, where the European Union and India have substantial grounds to cooperation in the global economy and politics, which seems to be a great potential for Indo-European intercultural business relations.

Evolution of European Union and India relations

According to historians, the relations between the European Union and India have a long history that dates back to the creation of the first contacts at the onset of 1960s era.¹ India was among the first developing nations to create a diplomatic relations with the then European Economic Community.² India had to redefine its relations with the international community or the rest of the world following its independence from the British imperial power. Following its independence, researchers argue, India's greatest problems were to get partner who were necessary for its growth and development. It had two dominant perspectives at the time: first, there was the perspective of a strategic and political repositioning in the world. The second perspective was a commercial and economic vision of development. In this case, pundits contend that the latter was based on some few fundamental principles. There was the willingness to uphold pleasant relations with all nations, the pacific resolution of arising conflicts, the equality of the sovereignties of state, the independence of reflection and actions secured by the status of nonalignment nations and equity in the process of conducting internal affairs.

Another documentary shows that in 1962, Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister for India, took the enterprise of establishing a diplomatic mission in

¹ Wylber and Wulber, *The Paradox of EU-India Relations: Missed Opportunities in Politics, Economics, Development Cooperation, and Culture*, 11.

²Wylber and Wulber, *The Paradox of EU-India Relations: Missed Opportunities in Politics, Economics, Development Cooperation, and Culture*, 11.

Brussels. This was a gesture that pundits described as having signified the openness to new postcolonial multilateral and free relations between the Europe and India.³ Moreover, it is argued that this decision mirrored two aims of the Indian government. The first aim was to ensure that India's products were accessible in the European Economic Community's market. The second aim was to make substantial contributions to the European Economic Community's recognition of the significance of setting up an all-inclusive development strategy. Another body of literature shows that the government of India quickly attempted to utilise the institutional instruments at its disposal to realise these aims.⁴

The first cooperation pact between the European Economic Community and India was signed in the year 1973; the pact was expected to diversify and develop the commercial exchanges between the two entities. An encompassing commission, charged with the responsibility of making identification of sectors of opportunity cooperation and putting them within framework of the 1973 pact between the two entities.⁵ This was replaced with another agreement more areas of cooperation for the member states with the state of India; this was signed in 1981 and was beyond just cooperation in commerce. According to studies already done, it was only after the agreement of 1981 was signed in India when the relations between the European Union and India accelerated. It has been argued that that was the point at which India took the path of transition in the post-colonial India. Some scholars argue that the transition was from relatively defensive position that was characterised by economic protectionism policies to an open state.⁶

India gradually turned to the European Community, especially after the collapse of its nonalignment ally, the Soviet Union. In this case, analysts argue that the pact that was signed in 1992 was one of the foundation stone of the strengthened partnership between the country and the European Union. The analyst further posit that if the agreement mirrored the increasing interest of the European Community in Asia, then for India, it was a significant opportunity to project itself an increasingly significant player on the world scene, especially with respect to world politics and economy. Players in the Indian economic scene however, condemned substantial inequalities, especially with regard to the large trade deficit that arose between the two entities. According to reports, India imported high value-added commodities sold at relatively low prices in the European market; these commodities were both textile and

³Wylber and Wulber, *The Paradox of EU-India Relations: Missed Opportunities in Politics, Economics, Development Cooperation, and Culture*, 15.

⁴Wylber and Wulber, *The Paradox of EU-India Relations: Missed Opportunities in Politics, Economics, Development Cooperation, and Culture*, 15.

⁵Wylber and Wulber, *The Paradox of EU-India Relations: Missed Opportunities in Politics, Economics, Development Cooperation, and Culture*, 17.

⁶Wylber and Wulber, *The Paradox of EU-India Relations: Missed Opportunities in Politics, Economics, Development Cooperation, and Culture*, 17.

agricultural products. According to the report, this presented a situation that continued to worsen.⁷

Indian authorities are also reported to have denounced what they perceived as the misguided policies on the part of the European Union, especially the notion of politics of attributing aid for development. The report further states that the European Union provided more than one billion Euros to India between 1970s and 1990s; this was considered to be the nation's largest single donor. In the report, it is stated that the donation was fundamentally tagged to the health sectors, provision of education and clean water. Consequently, the European Union obstructed the production of certain products and instead demanded that India purchase such products from the European Union countries.⁸ This kind of conditioned cooperation or relation risked India getting into a serious economic dependence on the European Union. During that period, it is claimed; India accused the developed nations of establishing the respect of human rights and freedom as a prerequisite for all economic assistance given to the developing nations by the Western industrialised countries.⁹

According to documentation, the 1994 cooperation pact signed between the European Union and India improved the bilateral relations between the two entities beyond just economic and trade cooperation. Coupled with the Joint Political Statement that was signed in 1993, the pact opened the way for annual ministerial conferences and a wide political dialogue. The first summit held by the two entities was held in Lisbon in June of 2000. This definitely marked a watershed in the evolution process of the relationship between the European Union and India. Since the first summit, reports indicate that there have been five such summits with the fifth one being recorded to have taken place in November 2004 in The Hague.¹⁰

Scholars argue that the relations between the European Union and India have experienced exponential growth from what they describe as used to be a purely economic and trade driven relations the one covering all fields of interaction. According to documented sources, the summit that took place in The Hague took the relations even to a higher level after the two entities upgraded their relationship to a level of strategic partnership. Researchers argue that the partnership was more than just the sum total of its components. It is therefore viewed as a qualitative

⁷Wylber and Wulber, *The Paradox of EU-India Relations: Missed Opportunities in Politics, Economics, Development Cooperation, and Culture*, 19.

⁸Wylber and Wulber, *The Paradox of EU-India Relations: Missed Opportunities in Politics, Economics, Development Cooperation, and Culture*, 20.

⁹Wylber and Wulber, *The Paradox of EU-India Relations: Missed Opportunities in Politics, Economics, Development Cooperation, and Culture*, 20.

¹⁰Wylber and Wulber, *The Paradox of EU-India Relations: Missed Opportunities in Politics, Economics, Development Cooperation, and Culture*, 20.

transformation in the manner nations engage with one another as equal partners and work together in cooperation with the entire world at large.¹¹

Experts in international relations contend that the European Union began to take India seriously soon after the 1998 test of nuclear weapons; soon afterwards, six years later, India and the European Union signed a strategic partnership agreement in Brussels; the agreement was referred to as the Strategic Partnership. The international relations experts have argued acknowledged that India is economically and political crucial to the wellbeing of the European Union. According to historians, during the Cold War period, it was predominantly the Union for Socialist Soviet Republics that saved India from a total and crushing isolation within the triangular relations between Pakistan, China and the United States. Being aware of this historical instance and also in the face of China's present rapid economic growth and world diplomatic offensive, India is intensely aware of the fact that it needs to employ simultaneously all the major world powers to be able to respond to China's increasing power from the position of strength.¹²

The scholar has also stated that from India's perspective the European Union potentially has the capacity to play a significant role, if not militarily, but economically and politically, in India's realist approach to realising security that is characterised by efforts aimed at managing asymmetries while not eradicating them.¹³

The European Union as an international actor

The European Union is viewed to have occupied an increasingly fundamental position in the modern discussions on issues regarding the world politics. The union constitutes a model for, or a case of benchmark, the building of institutions linked to the process of regionalization and or globalization.¹⁴ Other pundits have laid emphasis on European Union's internal dynamics and distinct features in comparison to other global and regional organizations. Just recently, the role of the European Union as a regional organization and influence in the world politics has attracted specific attention. While its economic weight and power of trade have been viewed to be largely recognized, the current debates and discussions are keenly examining its

¹¹Wylber and Wulber, *The Paradox of EU-India Relations: Missed Opportunities in Politics, Economics, Development Cooperation, and Culture*, 21.

¹²Wylber and Wulber, *The Paradox of EU-India Relations: Missed Opportunities in Politics, Economics, Development Cooperation, and Culture*, 21.

¹³Wylber and Wulber, *The Paradox of EU-India Relations: Missed Opportunities in Politics, Economics, Development Cooperation, and Culture*, 23.

¹⁴ Bart Gaen, Juha Jokela and Eija Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners* (London: Ashgate Publishing, Ltd., 2009), 37-189.

increasing military and political abilities in the process of formulation of common foreign, security and defence related policies.¹⁵

According to author, the diagnostic focus on the European Union as an international actor has been broadly twofold. On one hand, scholars have increasingly been interested in charting its development with this regard, largely concentrating on the internal dynamics of the integration of Europe and the European Union policy processes like the establishment of region-to-region relations and also strategic partnerships with both China and India.¹⁶ On the other hand, the author argues that analysts have increasingly been occupied with evaluation of the approaches by which the European Union exercises power in the stage of world politics. In this perspective, scholars have also emphasised the European Union's international embeddedness in the world developments such as the rise of Asia. However, the author suggests that even though it is crucial to comprehend the approaches in which the European Union produces international actions, which have been the focus of most previous researchers, it is also important to analyse how the global dimension fits into the European Union policy making and other related processes.¹⁷

The very idea of the European Union's global activities slants towards the relationship between its internal and external foci. Therefore, in order to comprehend the role of the European Union in the whole world and its attempts to inform it through strategic actions, it is important to take into account the internal dynamics it, especially in the context of international development initiatives.

Other scholars have argued that in order to shed more light on the European Union's role as an international actor, it is worth making a distinction of the European Union as a model power and a super power.¹⁸ According to the scholars, the idea of the European Union as a super power is not a new concept; it has become prominent as its influence in the world or global politics. Some policy makers have proposed that the European Union should take up the role of a powerful nation-like actor role so as to balance other powers like the United States.¹⁹ This way, they argue, the European Union has security, political and economic interests to defend; therefore, it should utilize its influence and power appropriately. In this case, the European Union is viewed as a unitary actor that might easily be compared and contrasted with other

¹⁵ Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 143.

¹⁶ Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 144.

¹⁷ Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 144.

¹⁸ Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 144.

¹⁹ Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 144.

major world powers in involved as major players in the global politics like the United States, Russia, India and China.²⁰

However, as another author argues, the idea of the European Union as a model power is conceivably more deeply ingrained among the policy makers of Europe. As the European Union has decided to seek a more prominent role in the global politics, policy makers have drawn on its internal achievements so as to legitimise stronger activism on the global level.²¹ The scholars have placed much emphasis on the achievements of the integration within Europe in establishing a system of governance based on the universal values of human rights, democracy, freedom and the rule of law which have been viewed by some social scientists to have ensured peace and prosperity to a region one damaged by wars among what are now known to be member states of the European Union.²² It is suggested that these developments have lessons that are crucial not only to the European nations, but also to the broader global community. According to other literatures, the world should be encouraged by the experience of the Europe and the European Union itself should be proactive in enhancing its model.²³

It has further been argued that the European Union should not strive to be a super power, but should ensure it becomes a model power. This argument has gained a wide support from numerous academics. The debates and discussions about the European Union as a normative power and at the same time a civilian power insinuates that the European Union model, that is, the internal experience, encompasses its most valuable resource when acting globally.²⁴

As a model power, the European Union has been perceived as both active and passive. As a passive actor it is seen as shaping the world by its simple or mere existence. Alternatively, it is exercising its influence via what it is rather than what it engages in or simply what it does. This influence it exerts by just attracting others to imitate it. Behind this kind of reasoning is actually the achievement of the European Union in put off civil conflicts in the post-war Europe and providing prosperity for the member countries of Europe.²⁵

²⁰Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 144.

²¹Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 146.

²²Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 148.

²³Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 148.

²⁴Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 148.

²⁵Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 149.

Literature shows that the diversity of the European region and the prestigious global status it has in high and popular culture, technological innovations and science has also tended to inspire others to adopt the model. This analysis resonates well with the idea of the European Union exercising soft rather than what may be referred to as hard power. Again, reflecting on the European Union structural position in the world, a number of researchers have noted that European Union's internal market structure encompasses a strong incentive for other entities or nations to engage in regionalism. This could also reflect the balancing of power in the sense that nations have discovered that regional integration is very important if they have exert any form of influence in the modern world politics.²⁶

Nonetheless, some observers and European Union policy makers have increasingly underlined the challenges associated with its passiveness as an international player in the global politics. The European Union model not been replicated without some level of reservation elsewhere in other parts of the world, as the appearance of the Asian approach to regionalism in the 1990s insinuates. Another author contends that the European Union's ability to attract other players is increasing merged with its ever-increasing activism in the global affairs; this could be in the areas of military, political or economic issues.²⁷

Reviewed literatures also show that the role-played by the European Union links to the level of strategic action in its external relations. It has been suggested that the European Union's action actually reflects a routine rather than strategic behaviour. As a routine player, the European Union is said to act in a rather premeditated way reflecting its firm belief that the history of Europe a lesson to be learnt by every nation. It therefore follows that in an environment of uncertain and challenging or problematic international conditions, the European Union players do what they normally know best. Rather than what they would be most favourable for what might be intended outcomes.²⁸

In distinction, the strategic behaviour implies that more unequivocal consideration of how policy objectives are translated into efficient actions. Even though the European Union obviously targets at the more in-depth strategic thinking and behaviour, there are plethora of exemplars of routine behaviour. It is further proposed that the actual process of enlargement was facilitated by the regulation requirements associated with the single markets rather than the political prerequisites associated with democratic governance and basic rights. Equally, the European Union

²⁶Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 149.

²⁷Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 152.

²⁸Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 152.

has been blamed for narcissism and for a trend to reproduce itself in its policy to advance regionalism overseas.²⁹

In relation to European Union's increasing external actions, the kind of strategic action and its goals are relevant to the model power and super power feature. A question rises with respect to European Union's behaviour for the short term and interests-based or whether or not it is an attempt to shape the short term interests and systematic goals may be conflicting.³⁰

The European Union's first ever security strategy, referred to as the European Security Strategy, which was agreed on in the year 2003, is considered as the probable clearest indicator of what type of global actor the European Union is or otherwise actually intends to become; this also is said to include how it positions itself with respect to other actors in the world. Moreover, consulted literature indicates that this is the most comprehensive manifestation of its global security strategy. The European Security Strategy states that, because to its population and economic power, the European Union is inevitable a world political player and that Europe should be ready to share in the actual responsibility for world security and in establishing a better world.³¹

Even though it is purported that the European Union is actively advancing its model across the world, the pragmatic policy making with Asia is broadly associated with the management of economic relations with the major nations, especially India and China, and to some extent Association of South East Asian Nations. In this case, some scholars argue that in this case the European Union potentially mirrors routine behaviour and insinuates that the European Union is acting as a passive model power. Other researchers further posit that issues related to China and India has been gradually debated in the context of the Common Foreign and Security Policy. According to available literature, political matters, like the human rights and the environment linked to investments, development and trade could show strategic thinking and increasing activism in the promotion of European Union model. However, recent world developments might make this type of activism challenging and divert the European Union's and its member countries' attention or focus to short term interests. Indeed, it is argued that the member countries tend to be specifically active advancing their interests and defending their distinctive lines in various configurations of the Council.³²

²⁹Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 152.

³⁰Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 152.

³¹Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 153.

³²Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 154.

There are suggestions that the European Union's external relations are informed by the international development activities. One of the current themes broadly debated among various policy makers, scholars and authors is the faith of organisation. The liberalisation of the money markets and trade has provided a highlight of liberal ideas of total benefits and the common interests. However, the authors contend that the recent impediments in further liberalisation process, especially in relation to trade, have sent shockwaves through the world or global thinkers, policy makers and scholars. For a good number of pundits, relative achievements and national interests increasingly dominate the world or global agenda; and not least in the economic field. In the light of the global trends, the future development of the European Union as an international player or actor is highly topical.³³

India's ambivalence towards the Europe

The perception and attitude toward Europe is said to generally have seemed to be dichotomous and seriously unsure. The perception and attitude have been shaped by what Verma characterised as the "repertoire of images" which both the Europe and India constructed for each other during the time they first got into contact with each other.³⁴ According to an author, the images Europe and India held of each other tended to fluctuate or alternate so wildly from one extreme scenario of exaggerated admiration and praise to another extreme of disapproval and refutation. According the author, numerous Indian elites who obtained their education in the European academic institutions were bemused by and therefore questioned the apparently inherent contradiction between the literature that vividly highlighted the humanistic values of justice and freedom on one hand, and the cruelty, arrogance and oppressive rule of the European colonial or imperial powers exhibited in during the colonial India and other sections of Asia on the other hand.³⁵

According to the arguments of another researcher, presently, after the end of the two major world wars, the First World War and the Second World War, and also having watched the realist concept at play in Europe, hard power approach to international or global politics during the period of the Cold War that result in the Western implication in various violent armed conflicts around the world. The author further argue that of more concern to India is the Europe's deliberate support for atrocious totalitarian regimes as well as perpetuating the perceived modern patterns of world economic exploitation; according to the author, further, the Indians have long ago rebutted any their romanticised image of Europe. The author again states that the

³³Jokela and Linnell, *The Role of the European Union in Asia: China and India As Strategic Partners*, 158.

³⁴ EU External Affairs Review, *Indian Ambivalence towards Europe* (Oxon: Routledge, 2011), 1-14.

³⁵EU External Affairs Review, *Indian Ambivalence towards Europe*, 3.

current perception of Indians of Europe still continues to be dichotomous and full of mixed feelings about the intentions of Europe, especially through the European Union. Some scholars have explained this scenario to be arising from the fact that the European Union is somehow challenging to comprehend.³⁶

Reports of analysis by researchers indicate reveal that India admitted that it held the European Union on high esteem as an economic “superpower” due to its technological competence and also the distinct success of its process of integration. However, the reports show that the policy makers of India pointed to the European Union’s strategic and military powerlessness because of lack of its consistency and all encompassing relative turn down in its influence in the global affairs. It is argued that this is one of the significant reasons the European Union has not achieved the status of hegemony in the world and is not a counterweight to the United States. A series of in-depth interviews the policy makers of India, international relations researchers and diplomats was conducted in India, Singapore and Prague in the year of 2008. The interviews are reported to have shown the Indian elites at first, following the end of the Cold War, expected the 21st century international or global relations structure to be based on and formed round three major pillars: the United States, the European Union and the East Asia , especially with China. ³⁷

Nonetheless, literature documentaries show that contrary to such expectations, the reality was that at the present period, the European Union could not be viewed or perceived as a significant player, a crucial perspective in the security of Asia. Based on the qualitative and quantitative analyses of the relevant systematic studies and all the interviews that were conducted by the researcher, certain priorities, as viewed by the by Indian elites, can be identified that alternately shape the dynamics of the modern security and foreign policy of India. According to the researcher, the priorities include the relations between India and the United States, India’s relations with the East Asian powers such as Japan, ASEAN and China, the relations between India and Russia and the European Union an finally the relations between India with other nations and the regions.³⁸

India and the European Union as the trading “super power”

According to an authoritative literature report, in India, the European Union is basically perceived as an emerging new player in the world politics and or global economy, who, from the perspective of the military security, does not have any substantial benefit to provide to India as a nation, especially compared to the United States. However, even though the majority of the member states of the European

³⁶EU External Affairs Review, *Indian Ambivalence towards Europe*, 6.

³⁷EU External Affairs Review, *Indian Ambivalence towards Europe*, 7.

³⁸EU External Affairs Review, *Indian Ambivalence towards Europe*, 7.

Union are also member states of the North Atlantic Organisation, it is the United States that was perceived as India's main partner in relation to security. In this case, according to the report, the European Union was considered as a powerful and crucial trading block. In the view of another author, India's analysis on economic and trading matters portrays the European Union as ruthless and exploitative economic power that can only manage to pay lip services to the liberalisation process of international trade.³⁹

The foreign policy makers of India vividly acknowledge a significant difference that exists between the moderately unified and organised economic policy of the European Union and its differentiated and incoherent security and foreign policy. In one scenario, the European Union is often mentioned in India as the world's model or successful case of the approach by which regional economic integration can be used a tool of ensuring regional security, which involves the achievement of peace and ensuring stability in regional politics by the means of enhancing economic engagement. However, in another scenario, the European Union as an independent entity that has been attempting to define its own identity and to design to and enforce its foreign and security policies cannot hope to play a more significant security and political role within the Indian sub-continent that is beyond the influence obtained from its financial and economic might.⁴⁰

European Union-India Free Trade Area

A free trade pact between the European Union and India was began in 2007 and expected to be signed agreement till 2012 but due to hard discussions and long negotiation process till today it has not been settled. The pact was to enhance, between the two entities, economic and investment cooperation and was also expected to set the momentum of growth.

The European Union wished that the free trade pact to take care and clarify matters of deeper integration between the two entities. These included the policy of competition in trade between the two entities, the rights set out for foreign investors, practices for open government purchasing and also clauses that could create pretexts for future trade protection. Even though the proposed Free Trade Area between the European Union and India is ambitious for both entities, the plan is also like to face obstacles related to the different stages of their economic developments. The European Union economies are more advanced than the economy of India. The success of the agreement will also depend with the Republic of India's government of the day given that some ruling coalition members were found to be against the entire plan of a Free Trade Area between the European Union and India.

³⁹EU External Affairs Review, *Indian Ambivalence towards Europe*, 8.

⁴⁰EU External Affairs Review, *Indian Ambivalence towards Europe*, 8 and 9.

Conclusion

Some India's policy makers have pointed out that the conflicting geopolitical developments taking place in both South Asia and Europe from late 1940s period. Even though the modern thoughts of the European elites are shaped by the continent's successful process of integration and the desire to aggressively enhance the European standards and values worldwide, the interstate relations within Asia and specifically in the South Asia are greatly impacted by the threat awareness, the mutual hostility and the historically shaped distrust among nations. In totality, the perception of the European elites emphasising foreign policy tools of what has been referred to as soft power in order to defend national security is to a large extent inconsistent with the strategic perception of the Indian elites that puts a great value on the utility of real balancing of power, politics and military capability. However, given the ambivalence of India toward the European Union, it is still not clear how India is to tackle issues of security cooperation with the European Union.

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