

**Embassy of India
Brussels**

PRESS RELEASE

The first-ever India-EU Security and Defence Consultations took place on 10th June 2022 in Brussels pursuant to a decision taken at the India-EU summit in July 2020. The consultations were co-chaired by Mr. Somnath Ghosh, Joint Secretary (IC), Ministry of Defence and Mr. Sandeep Chakravorty, Joint Secretary (Europe West), Ministry of External Affairs from the Indian side and Joanneke Balfoort, Director Security and Defence Policy from the EU side. The wide ranging discussions covered the evolving security situation in Europe, India's neighborhood and the Indo-Pacific.

The two sides noted number of positive developments in the area of security and defence cooperation in recent years, including establishment of a regular maritime security dialogue, which met for the second time in February 2022, the first-ever joint naval exercises held in June 2021, and a number of joint workshops on the subject of fostering maritime security.

During the consultations, the two sides also discussed various means of increasing India-EU cooperation on maritime security, implementation of the European code of conduct on arms export to India's neighborhood, cooperation in co-development and co-production of defence equipment including India's participation in PESCO. Both sides agreed to increase India-EU defence and security cooperation as an important pillar of the bilateral strategic relations.

The next consultations will be held in Delhi at a mutually agreed convenient time.

Brussels

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