

18 November 2022

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Sub: Inputs and action take note for the 2nd session of India – Norway
Dialogue and Trade and Investment**

A Dialogue on Trade and Investment (DTI), under the India – Norway Joint Commission framework, was established on 8th January 2019, with the aim to promote investment and bilateral trade in goods and services and to further develop economic cooperation between India and Norway. The first session of India – Norway DTI was held on 15 – 16 January 2020 and joint conclusions of the said DTI is enclosed for your reference.

Now, the Second Session of India – Norway Dialogue on Trade and Investment (DTI) is scheduled on 21st December 2022. With a view to further expanding trade relations, both sides agreed to explore possible bilateral cooperation in the following sectors:

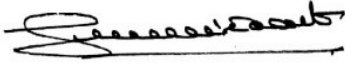
- Shipping and Maritime: Some of the potential areas of cooperation could be (a) Environment friendly shipping and ship recycling in accordance with IMO's Hong Kong International Convention for Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships acceded to by India in November, 2019; (b) Short-sea / coastal shipping vessel using alternative fuels such as LNG, Electric or Hydrogen; (c) Ship design, ship building and maritime equipment; (d) Skills and training of Indian Seafarers.
- Energy and Renewable Energy including electric mobility, clean energy such as Hydro Electric, Solar Energy, Wind Energy.
- Services: (i) Information and Communication, Technology and movement of natural persons / Mode 4 issues: (ii) Facilitating movement of professionals, students, researchers.
- Skill Development: Cooperation in areas of (i) Exchange of Interns & apprentices between India & Norway; (ii) Skilled manpower mobility
- Urban Development: The Indian Government's Smart City Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) including waste management.
- Tourism
- MSME: Cooperation in the following areas on mutually agreed terms:
 - (i) Facilitation in initiating enterprise to enterprise cooperation through exchange of business missions to held initiate technology transfers and sustainable business alliance between Indian and Norway enterprises;
 - (ii) Facilitation in organizing technology workshops and seminars in India / Norway to promote Indian / Norway technologies & products and share information on best practices for promotion & development of small enterprises of both countries;

- (iii) Establishment of linkages through Web Portal for information exchange
- (iv) Establishment of Technology Incubation Centres for developing small enterprises; and
- (v) Identification of an organization in Norway which can cooperate with National Small Industries Corporation Ltd (NSIC) on the above points

In this regard, you are requested to kindly provide issues / suggestions / strategies on the above points related to Norway.

Please share your valuable inputs and suggestions urgently by 22nd November 2022 to swaraj.singh@servicesepc.org; dgdesk@servicesepc.org

With best regards,



CA Sunil H Talati
Chairman

JOINT CONCLUSIONS
THE 1ST SESSION OF THE
INDIA-NORWAY
DIALOGUE ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT
NEW DELHI, 15-16TH JANUARY, 2020

A Dialogue on Trade and Investment (DTI), under the India-Norway Joint Commission framework, was established on 8th January, 2019, with the aim to promote investment and bilateral trade in goods and services and to further develop economic cooperation between India and Norway.

The first session of the India-Norway DTI, co-chaired by Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry from the Indian Side, and by Mr. Erling Rimestad, Director General, Trade Policy Department, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries from the Norwegian Side, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, was held in New Delhi on 15-16th January, 2020. The meeting took place in an amicable atmosphere, reflecting the nature of the partnership between the two countries and the desire to further develop and strengthen their economic and commercial ties on the basis of equity and mutual benefit.

The Agenda and the lists of members of the two delegations are hereto annexed (Annexure-I to Annexure-III).

In particular, the following issues of mutual interest were discussed during the DTI session:

1. Bilateral economic and trade relations

The Parties informed each other of the current political, social and economic situation as well as development trends in their respective countries in context of overall world economic scenario.

The Parties agreed that the current level of bilateral trade does not fully reflect the true potential of their economies. The two sides therefore agreed to exert additional efforts to promote as well as to diversify their bilateral trade and to encourage mutually beneficial business initiatives.

The Indian side underlined that Norway is an important trading partner for India. Norway has inherent strengths in maritime and shipping, manufacturing, hydropower, clean energy and IT services.

The Norwegian side emphasized that India is an important partner for Norway and that Norwegian enterprises express considerable interest for the Indian market. With its vast pool of skilled human resources, competitive wage rates and an edge in sectors such as leather, gems and jewellery, auto components, textiles, etc., India is a market with great potential for Norwegian businesses.

The Parties were pleased that a India-Norway Ocean Dialogue and a bilateral Task Force on the Blue Economy were established during the Norwegian Prime Minister's visit to New Delhi in January 2019, and look forward to jointly further the ocean related cooperation in the time to come.

The Parties noted that the negotiations between the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and India on a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) started in October, 2008. So far, 17 rounds of negotiations have been held, the last round being held in New Delhi on 18-21 September, 2017. India and EFTA States held several videoconference meetings in 2019 addressing outstanding issues in the negotiating process.

The Parties agreed that a future TEPA will contribute to a mutually beneficial and balanced trade and economic cooperation between the countries. They agreed to make efforts to arrange for the next round of TEPA negotiations early 2020.

2. Bilateral Investment

The Indian Side informed that Norway has emerged as the 40th largest investor in India between April 2000 to September 2019. However, the total FDI equity inflows from Norway is still relatively small, being about 0.06% (US\$ 0.25 billion) of total FDI equity inflows (US\$ 446.12 billion).

Both sides acknowledged their commitment to further enhance bilateral investments.

As per recent World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Report, India has recorded a significant improvement against its rank of 77th last year, and is now placed at 63rd rank, thereby becoming one amongst the top 10 improvers for the third consecutive year.

The Norwegian side acknowledged India's impressive efforts to make it easier to do business in India and to attract foreign investment and encouraged the Indian side to continue this positive trend in order to secure safe, stable and predictable framework conditions for Norwegian investors in India.

The Indian Side informed the Norwegian side about the various initiatives taken by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Government of India such as Start up India, Investment Cooperation, Make in India and liberalization of FDI policy, etc. Ease of Doing Business is a fundamental priority of Government of India's 'Make in India' initiative. A strategic and comprehensive reform package has been undertaken to strengthen investor's confidence. It urged the Norwegian side to take advantages of these initiatives.

3. Economic & Industrial Cooperation

With a view to further expanding trade relations, both Sides agreed to explore possible bilateral cooperation in the following sectors:

- (i) Cooperation in Ocean Space and Ocean Management, including Task Force on Blue Economy and Ocean Dialogue as per the MoU signed during the visit of Norwegian Prime Minister to India on 8th January, 2019.
- (ii) Shipping and Maritime: Some of the potential areas of cooperation could be (a) Environment friendly shipping and ship recycling in accordance with IMO's Hong Kong International Convention for Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships acceded to by India in November, 2019; (b) Short-sea/coastal shipping vessels using alternative fuels such as LNG, Electric or Hydrogen; (c) Ship design, ship building and maritime equipment; (d) Skills and training of Indian Seafarers.
- (iii) Fisheries
- (iv) Energy and Renewable Energy including electric mobility, clean energy such as Hydro electric, Solar energy, Wind energy.
- (v) Services: (i) Information and Communication: Technology and movement of natural persons/Mode 4 issues; (ii) Facilitating movement of professionals, students, researchers.
- (vi) Skill Development: Cooperation in areas of (i) Exchange of Interns & apprentices between India & Norway; (ii) Skilled manpower mobility;
- (vii) Urban Development: The Indian Government's Smart City Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) including waste management.
- (viii) Tourism
- (ix) Chemicals including petrochemicals, plastics and process industries
- (x) MSME: Cooperation in the following areas on mutually agreed terms: (i) Facilitation in initiating enterprise to enterprise cooperation through exchange of business missions to held initiate technology transfers and sustainable business alliances between Indian and Norway enterprises; (ii) Facilitation in organizing technology workshops and seminars in India/Norway to promote Indian/Norway technologies & products and share information on best practices for promotion & development of small enterprises of both countries; (iii) Establishment of linkages through Web Portal for information exchange; (iv) Establishment of Technology

Incubation Centres for developing small enterprises; and (v) Identification of an Organization in Norway which can cooperate with National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC) on the above points.

The Parties acknowledged that companies and smaller commercial players in both markets experience challenges. The Parties agreed to work systematically to accommodate for predictable and transparent prerequisites for doing business; and help businesses by removing hurdles and bottlenecks to overcome these challenges.

4. Bilateral Joint Working Groups vs. possible working groups under DTI

The Parties notes that under the auspices of the India-Norway Joint Commission, a number of bilateral Joint Working Groups (JWGs) have been set up, which include JWG on (i) Environment; (ii) Science and Technology; (iii) Higher Education; (iv) Hydrocarbons; (v) Culture; (vi) Mutual Cooperation on Local Governance; (vii) Maritime Matters; (viii) Fisheries. These JWGs meet regularly for deliberations on mutually beneficial issues in the relevant areas.

Both Parties agreed that they would explore the need for formation of Working Groups under DTI in specific cooperation areas, and conclude in due time before the second session of the DTI.

5. Closing Remarks

Both Sides expressed its satisfaction with the meeting and agreed to work on the issues discussed. It was also decided to hold the next session of the DTI in Norway in 2021, on a date that will be mutually agreed through diplomatic channels.

6. Adoption of Joint Conclusions

Done and signed in New Delhi on 16th January, 2020 in two originals in English language, both texts being equally authentic.

Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi
Joint Secretary,
Department of Commerce,
Ministry of Commerce & Industry,
Government of India

Mr. Erling Rimestad
Director General,
Trade Policy Department,
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries
Government of Kingdom of Norway

AGENDA

1st Session of India-Norway Dialogue on Trade and Investment (DTI) 15-16 January, 2020, in New Delhi

1. Opening Statements by the Co-chairs of the DTI
2. Bilateral economic and trade relations - Lead: India
3. Bilateral Investment - Lead: Norway
4. Economic and Industrial Cooperation
 - 4.1. Cooperation in Ocean Space and Ocean Management, including Task Force on Blue Economy and Ocean Dialogue - Lead: India
 - 4.2. Shipping and Maritime - Lead: Norway
 - 4.3. Fisheries - Lead: India
 - 4.4. Energy and Renewable Energy - Lead: Norway
 - 4.5. Services - Lead: India
 - 4.6. Skill Development - Lead: Norway
 - 4.7. Urban Development - Lead: India
 - 4.8. Tourism - Lead: Norway
 - 4.9. Chemicals including petrochemicals, plastics and process industries - Lead: India
 - 4.10. MSME - Lead: Norway
5. Bilateral Joint Working Groups vs. possible working groups under DTI - Lead: Norway
6. Closing Remarks - Lead: India
7. Adoption/Signing of Joint Conclusions

Annexure II

List of Indian delegation for the 1st Session of the India-Norway Dialogue on Trade and Investment (DTI)

1.	Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Head of Delegation and Indian co-chair)
2.	Mr. Rajeev Saksena, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance
3.	Ms. Sangeeta Saxena, Director, TPD(Services), Department of Commerce
4.	Mr. Partha Ray, Director, Ministry of External Affairs
5.	Ms. Mercy Epao, Director, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
6.	Mr. Jayaseelan, Director, Ministry of Shipping
7.	Mr. Suman Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Power
8.	Mr. Rohit Kakkar, Deputy Adviser, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
9.	Dr. Sivaji Chandran, Scientist-F, Department of Science and Technology
10.	Dr. Sanjay Pandey, AC(Fisheries), Department of Fisheries
11.	Mr. R.K. Bhati, Assistant Director General, Ministry of Tourism
12.	Mr. Praveen Kumar, Under Secretary, Ministry of Power
13.	Mr. Ganesh H. Nikhare, Under Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
14.	Mr. Vinod Kumar, Under Secretary, Department of Commerce
15.	Mr. Pushpender Kumar, Under Secretary, Department of Commerce
16.	Mr. Aditya Narayan, Under Secretary, Department of Commerce
17.	Mr. Alok Dwivedi, Deputy DGFT, Department of Commerce
18.	Mr. Naveen Kumar, Deputy Director, Ministry of Food Processing Industries
19.	Mr. N.C. Bahugana, Under Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
20.	Mr. PNBV Chalapathi Rao, Under Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
21.	Ms. Aparajita Priyadarshini Behera, Assistant Director, Economic Division, Department of Commerce
22.	Mr. Abhishek Raj, Assistant Director, EP (CAP), Department of Commerce
23.	Mr. A.K. Sahoo, Section Officer, Department of Commerce
24.	Ms. Anitha Vasudevan, Senior Assistant Director, FICCI

25.	Mr. Mohsin Khan, Deputy Director(Europe), Confederation of Indian Industry
26.	Dr. J.P. Tiwari, Regional Director, CHEMEXCIL
27.	Mr. Sunil Tyagi, General Manager, NSIC
28.	Mr. S.R. Dewan, RD, PLEXCONCIL

Annexure III

List of Norwegian delegation for the 1st Session of the India-Norway Dialogue on Trade and Investment (DTI)

1.	H.E. Mr. Erling Rimestad, Director General, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries (Head of Delegation and Norway co-chair)
2.	Mr. Hans Jakob Frydenlund, Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi
3.	Ms. Vibeke Greni, Director, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries
4.	Mr. Morten Paulsen, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
5.	Mr. Henrik Width, Deputy Consul General, Royal Norwegian Consulate General in Mumbai
6.	Ms. Jorunn Anne Salthe, Deputy Director, Ministry of Petroleum and Energy
7.	Mr. Ole Henaes, Director Asia, Innovation Norway
8.	Mr. Helge Tryti, Director India, Commercial Counsellor, Innovation Norway/ Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi
9.	Mr. Baard Hjelde, Special Representative for India, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
10.	Ms. Ine Charlott Paulsen, Specialist Director, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries
11.	Mr. Wasim Ul Haque, First Secretary, Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi
12.	Mr. José R. Martinez, Senior Vice President Industry and Renewable Energy, Export Credit Norway
13.	Mr. Azam Ali Khan, Country Manager, Norwegian Energy Partners, India
14.	Ms. Arti Bhatia Kumar, Senior Market Advisor, Innovation Norway, New Delhi