

# EU International Partnerships in Asia-Pacific

**Jean-Christophe Virieu**

European Commission

Directorate General for International Partnerships (INTPA)



# Delivering on Global commitments

2030 Agenda for Sustainable development

European Consensus on Development – 2017

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change

# Implementing EU Policies and strategies

Global Gateway

EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo Pacific

# Fostering EU engagement

Global Europe: The Neighbourhood, Development and International  
Cooperation Instrument





# Global Gateway

EU strategy to boost  
sustainable links around the  
world

# Global Gateway

## Investment priorities



**Digitalisation**

**Climate & energy**



**Transport**

**Health**



**Education & research**



- Physical infrastructure
- Regulatory environment
- Soft skills

Global Gateway

# Key guiding principles for investments



Democratic  
values and  
high  
standards



Good  
governance  
and  
transparency



Equal  
partnerships



Green and  
clean



Security  
focused



Catalysing  
private  
sector  
investment



# The EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo Pacific

# The EU's approach - A set of ambitious policy goals

<p>1</p> <p>Solidify and defend the <b>rules-based international order</b></p>	<p>2</p> <p>Promote a <b>level playing field</b> and an open and fair environment for trade and investment</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Contribute to achieving the <b>SDGs</b>, to addressing climate change and environmental degradation, and to supporting sustainable and inclusive development</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Engage in <b>bilateral and multilateral cooperation</b> with partners to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Pursue long-standing multilateral and regional <b>cooperation with the UN and Bretton Woods Institutions</b>, as well as regional organizations such as ASEAN</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Support truly <b>inclusive policy-making</b> and cooperation, where the voices of civil society, the private sector, social partners and other key stakeholders count</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Establish <b>mutually supportive trade and economic relations</b> with the region that foster inclusive economic growth and stability, and promote and facilitate connectivity</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Engage in the region as a partner in our efforts to raise awareness on the impact of <b>global demographic trends</b></p>

# The EU's approach – Priority areas

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
<p><b>Sustainable and Inclusive Prosperity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Reinforce value chains and develop cooperation in strategic sectors</li> <li>→ Strengthen rules to protect international trade against unfair practices</li> </ul>	<p><b>Green Transition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Work with partners to fight, mitigate and adapt to climate change and to counter environmental degradation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ocean Governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Strengthen ocean governance</li> <li>→ Support partners to fight against IUU fishing and to implement Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements</li> </ul>	<p><b>Digital Governance and Partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Expand the network of digital partnerships and explore potential new Digital Partnership Agreements</li> <li>→ Strengthen cooperation under “Horizon Europe” program</li> </ul>	<p><b>Connectivity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Support partners to establish a good regulatory environment and facilitate funding to improve connectivity on the ground between Europe and the Indo-Pacific</li> </ul>	<p><b>Security and Defence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Promote an open and rule-based regional security architecture</li> <li>→ Explore ways to ensure enhanced naval deployments by EU MSs</li> <li>→ Support I-P partners’ capacity to ensure maritime security</li> <li>→ Facilitate capacity-building for partners to tackle cybercrime</li> </ul>	<p><b>Human Security</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Support healthcare systems and pandemic preparedness for the least-developed countries in the Indo-Pacific region</li> <li>→ Reinforce the EU’s disaster risk reduction and preparedness</li> </ul>



# Fostering EU engagement: Financing the External Action of the European Union

# **Global Europe:** The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)

NDICI mobilises a total financial envelope of **EUR 79.462 billion** over the 2021-2027 period through three key pillars :

- **Geographical:** European Neighborhood, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific and the Americas and the Caribbean
  - **> EUR 8.5 billion for the Asia-Pacific region**
- **Thematic:** Focus on human rights and democracy, civil society, stability and peace, as well as on global challenges such as health and climate change
- **Rapid Response:** Peace, stability and conflict prevention ; resilience and linking humanitarian aid and development action ; Union foreign policy needs and priorities

# Multi-Annual Indicative Programme BANGLADESH – Priorities 2021-2027

## HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

- Quality education and life-long learning
- Youth employment
- Decent work and social protection

## GREEN INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Environmental protection and climate change

## INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

- Fight against gender-based violence
- Access to justice for marginalized groups
- Financial & Fiscal management
- Digital governance for service delivery and finance

Mainstreaming cross cutting issues



# Regional Indicative programme for Asia-Pacific

## Regional integration and cooperation

### Central Asia

#### Partnering for resilience

- Water and energy
- Human rights, women's empowerment, rule of law and support to civil society
- Integrated approach to peace and stability

#### Partnering for prosperity

- Digital connectivity
- Entrepreneurship and regional trade
- Human development

### South Asia

#### Sustainable and resilient environment

#### Trade, Energy and Digital Connectivity

#### Integrated approach for regional stability and conflict prevention

### South East Asia and ASEAN

#### Implementing EU-ASEAN partnership

- Policy dialogue
- Global challenges and BBB
- Regional integration

#### Green Alliance

#### Sustainable connectivity

### Pacific

#### Climate action and environmental sustainability

#### Inclusive Economic Development

#### Fundamental Values, Human Development, Peace and Security

### Pan-Asia

- International partnerships across Asia, Pacific and the Middle East in pursuit of the EU's external priorities
- MSMEs equipped for global trade and EU-Asia resilient and sustainable value chains, sustainable consumption and production, circular business models
- Strong cultural ties between Europe and Asia

# Regional Indicative programme for Asia-Pacific

## Pursuing EU interests with key partners

### China

- Promote European values and interests in bilateral relations
- Global public goods, global challenges and international commitments including the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement
- China's role as global actor and emerging donor, international norms and standards

### India

#### Green Deals

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Biodiversity
- Clean energy transition
- Resource efficiency/circular economy
- Urban development

#### Sustainable Growth

- Health
- Digital agenda/transformation
- Mobility
- Connectivity
- Support to green, digital and innovative EU businesses
- Trade

#### Governance, People, Peace, Security

- Security
- Migration and mobility
- CSO engagement

### Gulf countries

Political and policy dialogue at national and regional level

Sectoral cooperation

Intra-regional cooperation

### Asian partners

- Cooperation with like-minded countries in Asia to strengthen multilateralism
- Promotion and projection of EU policies and standards
- Economic diplomacy: FTAs, level playing field, market access, investment, business opportunities
- Supporting key political processes, tools and objectives between the EU and Asian High Income Countries and other key partners
- Enhance EU's profile as global actor in the Asia-Pacific through Public Diplomacy and Principles

# SWITCH-Asia Programme

Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)



## Our Programme in a nutshell

- Launched in **2007**, covering 30+ countries across **Asia**, the **Middle-East** and the **Pacific** (*these 2 last regions since 2022*).
- **Its mission:** support the transition of the region to a **low-carbon, resource efficient and circular economy**, whilst promoting more **sustainable supply chains and products** between the region and Europe.
- **Economic sectors:** agri-food, textiles and leather, plastics, constructions, tourism, logistic and freight, electronics, etc.
- **EU policy alignment:** support the implementation of the external dimension of the **EU Green Deal** (Circular Economy Action Plan, Farm to Fork Strategy, EU Strategy for Textiles, EU Plastics Strategy)

## How do we work

- **At project level - Through its Grant Scheme**, the Programme supports collaborative projects between European and PanAsian organisations aiming at testing and uptaking SCP practices in MSMEs and among consumers (at date: ca. 150 projects).
  - **Strong future priority:** ensure linkages with IFIs to provide access to finance to MSMEs to integrate tested SCP solutions.
- **At policy level - The outcomes of projects feed into policy dialogue** to influence national policies and regulatory frameworks for the promotion of a greener and more circular economy in the region.
- **Coordination mechanism with focal points** in our EU Delegations and in each government in the region. Strong collaboration with regional environmental platforms and organisations.





# CONNECTING EUROPE & ASIA THE EU STRATEGY

**SUSTAINABLE, COMPREHENSIVE AND RULES-BASED CONNECTIVITY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENHANCED PROSPERITY, SAFETY AND RESILIENCE OF PEOPLE AND SOCIETIES IN EUROPE AND ASIA**

## WHAT IS CONNECTIVITY?



### TRANSPORT

Diversified trade and travel routes linking existing and future transport networks, shorter transit times and simplified customs procedures.



### ENERGY

More interconnected regional energy platforms, modern energy systems and environmentally friendly solutions.



### DIGITAL

Increased access to digital services while maintaining a high level of protection of consumer and personal data.



### HUMAN DIMENSION

Advanced cooperation in education, research, innovation, culture and tourism.

## WHY DO WE NEED BETTER CONNECTIVITY FOR EUROPE & ASIA?



**€1.5 TRILLION IN ANNUAL TRADE** BETWEEN EUROPE AND ASIA



**EUROPE AND ASIA ACCOUNT FOR OVER 60% OF THE WORLD'S GDP**



SINCE 2015, **OVER 18,000 STUDENTS AND ACADEMIC STAFF** HAVE TRAVELLED BETWEEN OUR TWO REGIONS



**WE HAVE A JOINT RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT**



**CROSS-BORDER RULES AND REGULATIONS MEAN FAIR COMPETITION** FOR BUSINESSES



**FISCAL AND FINANCIALLY STABILITY** REQUIRES LONG-TERM PLANNING

## HOW WILL THE EU ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY?

- 1 CONTRIBUTING TO EFFICIENT CROSS-BORDER CONNECTIONS AND TRANSPORT, ENERGY, DIGITAL AND HUMAN NETWORKS
- 2 STRENGTHENING BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS BASED ON COMMONLY AGREED RULES AND STANDARDS
- 3 LEVERAGING SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR INVESTMENTS

## WHAT IS THE EU DOING TO CONNECT EUROPE & ASIA?



### CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE



The EU has invested **€35 million** in the construction of the **Žeželj Bridge** in Novi Sad, Serbia as part of the extension of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

### DATA TRANSFERS



The EU and Japan agreed to adopt a mutual data adequacy decision before the end of 2018 creating the **world's largest area of safe data transfers** based on a high level of protection of personal data, laying the ground for innovative commercial applications and new business models.

## 5 EXAMPLES OF CONNECTIVITY PROJECTS



### ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION SYSTEM



The EIB is contributing **€70 million** to enable Central Asian countries to sell their electricity surplus during summer months to deficient countries in South Asia, improving the electricity access and expand markets in a sustainable way.

### COMMUNITY INTEGRATION



The EU has agreed **€85 million** of support, aiming at the consolidation of ASEAN Community, including fostering single market, trade facilitation and reducing non-tariff barriers to trade.



### STUDENT EXCHANGES & STAFF MOBILITY



**5,300** Indian students received Erasmus Scholarships and **1,800** Indian researchers

# Links & E-mail

**Global Europe** programming: [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/global-europe-programming\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/global-europe-programming_en)

**EU Strategy in the Indo Pacific:** [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA\\_21\\_4709](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_21_4709)

**Global Gateway:** [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/global-gateway\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/global-gateway_en)

**SWITCH Asia:** <http://www.switch-asia.eu/>

**Horizon Europe:** Research and innovation funding programme until 2027:  
<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/area/international-cooperation>

**E-mail:** [jean-christophe.virieu@ec.europa.eu](mailto:jean-christophe.virieu@ec.europa.eu) / SWITCH: [Alessandra.LEPORE@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Alessandra.LEPORE@ec.europa.eu)