

## **Executive Summary in honour of Mr João CRAVINHO, Ambassador – Head of Delegation of the European Union to India**

The World Trade Centre Mumbai (WTC Mumbai) in association with All India Association of Industries (AIAI) held a reception in honour of Mr João CRAVINHO, Ambassador – Head of Delegation of the European Union to India at the Centrum, Centre 1, WTC Complex on May 25, 2015. The reception was held with the view to enable members of WTC Mumbai and other attendees to interact with the Ambassador and start of a meaningful dialogue which could lead to building fruitful connections.

Mr. Vijay Kalantri, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Centre Mumbai and President of All India Association of Industries warmly welcomed Ambassador CRAVINHO and acknowledged the presence of other Consul Generals and Trade Commissioners of European countries, who were also present on the occasion. He said that the European Union is the biggest trading partner of India. He was all praise for the Ambassador, saying that he was a man of action. Citing an example of last year when mangoes from Maharashtra were banned from export as they had detected the presence of fruit flies in them. This issue was taken up with the Ambassador who immediately resolved the problem rather amicably. Mr. Kalantri said that there is great opportunity in India with the new government initiating major programmes such as 'Make in India', ease of doing business, tax reforms but in spite of this there are still grey areas which exist. He further added that the Indian government had embarked on a reform strategy and experts were hopeful that the Indian economy would grow at 9-10%.

Mr. Kalantri added that after a span of four years as the Ambassador in India, the latter would be carrying with him as he retires in August 2015, a lot of memorable thoughts and ideas of India. Till then we could still work together and make things happen for both India and the EU, especially in the issue of the difficulty faced in exporting generic medicines. As he concluded, Mr. Kalantri introduced WTC Mumbai's initiatives of other WTCs in Bhubaneswar which is operational and upcoming ones namely, Jaipur and Goa. Each of these have their individual strengths and he urged the Ambassador to take stock of this and work in these states along with WTC Mumbai.

Mr João CRAVINHO, Ambassador – Head of Delegation of the European Union to India, in his remarks said that the economic relations between India and the EU were progressing well, insisting that they could do better. He said that the last few years were interesting wherein India had moved from pessimism to optimism. India has turned out to be the star of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He claimed that the transformation was justified as there is enormous potential. However, there is still work to be done in several areas of potential growth. The Indian government has initiated the 'Make in India' campaign,

Clean Ganga, etc. which are great projects unlike what has been seen in the past. He emphasized that integrating India into the global value chain was of prime importance. Referring to the 'Make in India' initiative, he said that there are many collaborative efforts with European countries in this respect. Currently, the Indian government has shown great amount of openness in this direction. In connection with the 'Clean Ganga' initiative, he said that European rivers such as the Danube, Rhine were once very dirty, however, a decision was taken to change this. Similarly the River Ganges goes through several states and so it is mandatory for governance to clean up the river. Currently, India has great ambitions but also requires the certainty to do business. If the investment climate is favorable, European countries will be attracted by it and will come on their own to do business. The work environment should be an enabler, providing the necessary ease for everyone to do their jobs with comfort, he concluded.

Thereafter, a toast was raised for the Ambassador who is due to complete his service in India in August 2015. This was followed by a reception.