Why an EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific?

The European Union and Indo-Pacific countries have **a stake in each other’s security and prosperity**. The future of Europe, as well as of the international order, is being forged by the developments in the Indo-Pacific, and vice versa. Our regions **share the same interest** in upholding the rules-based international order with the UN Charter at its core, and in supporting responsible cooperation in international relations.

#GlobalGateway
#EUIndoPacific
Towards a deeper and stronger EU engagement

In this context, the EU has been stepping up its engagement with Indo-Pacific partners, with whom it faces similar challenges. The EU’s efforts and actions are guided by its 2021 Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. Endorsed by its Member States, it reflects the EU’s awareness of the need to engage in the Indo-Pacific, recognising that their prosperity and security are interconnected.

Concrete EU actions

Over the past year, the progress achieved through the EU’s inclusive approach is a testimony of its commitment to support regional peace, to bring prosperity to people in both our regions, and to shape a collective vision for a common future.

Key examples of concrete EU actions in and with the Indo-Pacific region in the seven main priority areas. Several of these efforts are also carried by the EU Global Gateway initiative:

- New Partnership and Cooperation Agreements with Malaysia and Thailand;
- Ongoing talks with Tonga, Timor-Leste, Niue, Tuvalu and Vanuatu on the accession to the Economic Partnership Agreement with the Pacific;
- Free Trade Agreement concluded with New Zealand; ongoing negotiations with Australia, Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA), Kenya, Indonesia, India, and Thailand.

Sustainable and inclusive prosperity

to support the global economic recovery and build together the prosperity of tomorrow that will leave no one behind
Ocean governance

to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity

- Treaty of the High Seas concluded at UN level;
- New Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements agreed with Cook Islands, and Madagascar;
- Support to the creation of a representative system of Marine Protected Areas around Antarctica.

Green transition

to tackle climate change and accelerate the just clean energy transition

- Team Europe initiative Green Blue Alliance for the Pacific and Timor Leste, including support for the hydropower in Fiji;
- Green Team Europe Initiatives on green and clean energy transitions with ASEAN, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mozambique, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Tanzania;
- The Green Alliance with Japan;
- Just Energy Transition Partnerships launched with Indonesia and Vietnam;
- Support to transport decarbonisation in the region, including in maritime and air transport.
Connectivity

to promote sustainable connectivity for all and establish common standards

- EU-India Aviation Summit under the EU-India Connectivity Partnership;
- Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure between the EU and Japan;
- Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement between the EU and ASEAN;
- Horizontal Agreement on air services between the EU and Japan;
- First High-Level Transport Dialogue with the Republic of Korea;
- ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package spanning across the transport, energy, digital, people-to-people, trade and economic connectivity sectors;
- Copernicus programme’s use of earth observation data for partners.

Digital governance and partnerships

to foster cooperation for a safe and secure digital space

- Digital Partnerships with Japan, Republic of Korea and Singapore;
- Digital Trade Principles between the EU and Singapore, and the EU and Republic of Korea;
- Digital connectivity Team Europe Initiative in the Philippines to support the digital transformation;
- Digital4Development Hub launched for Asia-Pacific.
Security and Defence
to promote an open and rules-based regional security architecture

- Joint naval exercises conducted by EUNAVFOR ATALANTA with partners, such as Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Japan, Oman, United States;
- New EU Training Mission in Mozambique (EUTM-Moz);
- Coordinated Maritime Presence in the North-West Indian Ocean;
- EU participation to the ASEAN Regional Forum;
- EU-funded thematic projects with a regional outreach:
  - CRIMARIO - capacity building and maritime information sharing solutions;
  - ESIWA – practical cooperation on counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, maritime security and crisis management;
  - Global Action on Cyber Crime Programme.

Human Security
to support healthcare systems and enhance disaster risk reduction and preparedness

- Humanitarian aid and assistance for vulnerable people in Myanmar (forced displacements), Bangladesh (Rohingya refugees), Vanuatu (cyclones), Pakistan (floods), and Yemen (food crisis);
- Copernicus Emergency Management Service over Pakistan, the Philippines, Australia, Indonesia, Madagascar, as well as Mozambique and Vanuatu;
- Support to the World Health Organisation South-East Asia Health Pandemic Response and Preparedness Programme.