



EU STRATEGY FOR COOPERATION IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

The Indo-Pacific - spanning from the east coast of Africa to the Pacific Island States - is a region where the EU has long enjoyed a broad and comprehensive relationship with our partners. The new Strategy launched in April 2021 recommits the EU politically to the region with the aim of contributing to its stability, security, prosperity and sustainable development, based on the promotion of democracy, rule of law, human rights and international law.

THE INDO-PACIFIC IS VITAL FOR THE EU'S ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND THE EU IS A MAJOR PARTNER FOR THE REGION

THE INDO-PACIFIC:

produces almost **60%** of global GDP



is **home to three** of the four largest economies outside the EU (China, India, Japan)

contributes two thirds of global growth



is at the forefront of the digital economy and technological developments

by 2030, **90%** of 2,4 billion new middle class members will come from the region



is central to global value chains, international trade and investment flows

...AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

Top investor, top development assistance provider and big trading partner for the region.

THE EU IS ALREADY EXTENSIVELY ENGAGED IN THE REGION

Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region is crucial to implementing the global agenda, including achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Europe and Asia must also work together now to engender a green and sustainable post-COVID-19 socio-economic recovery for the well-being of our own peoples.

Over the years, the EU has consistently made significant contributions in the region in areas such as:



development cooperation and humanitarian assistance



tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution



partnership and free trade agreements



disaster risk reduction



upholding international law, including human rights and freedom of navigation

THE STABILITY OF THE INDO-PACIFIC MATTERS FOR THE EU AND THE WORLD

The region is facing rising tensions, with geopolitical rivalries, contested territories and territorial waters, while regional security structures are absent. Sixty percent of maritime trade passes through its oceans, including a third through the South China Sea. Its passages need to remain free and open.

The EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific will allow the EU to **enhance cooperation in many areas** including:

 OCEAN GOVERNANCE	 STRENGTHEN REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS
 RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY	 INTENSIFY COOPERATION IN MULTILATERAL FORA
 CONNECTIVITY	 REINFORCE WORK ON TACKLING GLOBAL CHALLENGES SUCH AS CLIMATE CHANGE
 HEALTH	

SECURITY AND DEFENCE

The EU will **protect critical maritime routes** through capacity-building for partners to improve their maritime domain awareness.

The EU will organise more **joint exercises and port calls between Indo-Pacific naval units and the EU counter-piracy Naval Force Operation Atalanta**.

The EU will encourage **increased participation of partners in EU military and civilian Common Security and Defence Policy missions**.

The EU will **strengthen cooperation** with certain partners on **counter-terrorism, cyber-security, maritime security and crisis management**.

The EU will aim to **expand its security and defence dialogue** to include more partners and engage strongly in the ASEAN Regional Forum.

A **meaningful European naval presence in the Indo-Pacific** is acknowledged as important for the future.

THE STRATEGY IS BASED ON AN INCLUSIVE AND BROAD-BASED APPROACH

The EU is committed to work with all partners in the region who share common objectives, in specific policy areas where partners can find common ground based on shared principles, values or mutual interest.

The EU joins other partners who have declared Indo-Pacific approaches, with a view to strengthen synergies in the region towards the common goals of stability and prosperity.