

EN

E-000617/2026

Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.4.2026)

The EU-India Memorandum of Understanding on a comprehensive framework of cooperation on mobility (the MoU) is a non-legally binding instrument, which does not create any new legal pathways to the EU. In accordance with Article 79(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Member States retain the right to determine volumes of admission of third-country nationals coming to their territory to seek work.

Issuing visas also remains a competence of the Member States. To obtain a permit, third-country nationals, including those using the EU Talent Pool¹ and the EU Legal Gateway Office pilot², will need to undergo national immigration procedures, comprising security checks. To register on the EU Talent Pool, jobseekers will have to declare they are not subject to an entry ban. If this is the case, they will not have access to the platform.

The MoU fits into the wider context of deepening EU ties with India, alongside the ‘Towards 2030: A Joint India-European Union Comprehensive Strategic Agenda’³, the Free Trade Agreement, the Security and Defence Partnership⁴, as well as other initiatives concluded at the EU-India Summit of 27 January 2026. The EU engages with India on all concerns regarding Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, including on sanctions circumvention. The Summit Statement⁵ and the accompanying Strategic Agenda also pave the way for enhanced EU-India cooperation on the clean transition and energy resilience, including energy security and diversification.

¹ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/legal-migration-and-resettlement/work/eu-talent-pool_en.

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/launch-european-legal-gateway-office-pilot_en?s=167.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/it/statement_26_224.

⁴ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/security-and-defence-eu-and-india-sign-security-defence-partnership_en.

⁵ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-5727-2026-INIT/en/pdf>.