

Luxembourg being the financial center and gateway to Europe, it provides a unique opportunity for Indian companies

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by NR INDRAN / INT

Luxembourg today pushed for an early conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), saying it will be mutually beneficial and in line with the current reforms of the Indian government.



“FTA between India and Europe is likely to finalize soon, which will provide a big boost to the bilateral trade,” Luxembourg Ambassador to India Gaston Stronck told reporters here.

New horizons in economic relations between the two countries will be opened soon with the entry into force of the agreement to avoid double taxation, which will boost bilateral trade and stimulate the flow of capital, technology and personnel from India to Luxembourg and vice versa, he said

The next round of talks between India and EU officials will be held in November and agreement is expected soon, Stronck said. The 27-member block EU consists of countries like Germany, France, Austria, Spain, Greece and Italy.

Luxembourg being the financial center and gateway to Europe, it provides a unique opportunity for Indian companies, he said. Nearly 150 Indian companies depository receipt are listed on the Luxembourg stock exchange.

Among listed Indian companies listed on exchange include Aditya Birla-Nuvo, TI-India, Tata Power, Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Ranbaxy, Reliance Industries, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Jindal Saw, J K Paper, Mahindra, Winsome, Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces, Bharat Forge, NecLife and Surya Pharmaceutical.

Some more Indian companies are expected to raise funds and list on the Luxembourg stock exchange in the near future, Stronck said.

Luxembourg provides opportunities like setting up of European or worldwide headquarter, manage intellectual property rights and enhance R&D activities, he added.

Major Luxembourg exports to India consists of machinery & appliances, base metal and articles of base metal, plastic and rubber materials, articles of stone, cement and glass, textiles and textile material, paper and its application.

Due to the proximity of 22 major automobile units within a radius of 300 km. Luxembourg has become a regional center for automobile components. With India developing its own components sector fast, synergies can be explored further, ambassador said.

Products of Luxembourg food and beverage sector like chocolate, wine, beer etc. also have huge potential in India, Stronck said.