



## Delegation of the European Union to India



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World Aids Day is Commemorated in Orissa

Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes Looks forward to Policy Convergence Among World's Competition Authorities

EU - India Calendar of Events

Science in Society

**EU-India Discussion on Biometrics and Data Protection**

A high level meeting promoted by the European Union funded project RISE was held in New Delhi last September.

On the 24th and 25th of September 2009, the EU funded initiative RISE (Rising pan-European and International Awareness on Biometrics and Security Ethics) organized a high level event in New Delhi which focused on commonalities and differences between the European Union and India regarding the vital policy issues of security, data protection and privacy.

This meeting was hosted by the Data Security Council of India and provided an excellent opportunity for the RISE partners, EU and US agencies, and selected Asian stakeholders to discuss issues related to data protection and privacy in India. The conference was attended by Mr. Sachin Pilot, Minister of State, Ministry of Communications & IT, and saw high-level participation from delegates of leading IT/BPO companies, biometrics and security product vendors, Supreme Court officials, senior officers of the Delhi Police, the Income Tax Department and the Department of Information Technology of the Indian government. EU institutions were represented by the EU Delegation in India and the European Data Protection Supervisor.

India has been one of the best performers in the world economy in recent years and Business Process Outsourcing has undoubtedly contributed to this rapid development. In line with the growth of this market, great concerns have been raised on the security and data protection of the transnational flows to outsourcing companies. External users have put the Indian government under increasing pressure to implement regulations according to international data protection standards, for the safeguard of privacy and creation of confidence among foreign investors.

***News concerning the Indian government's plan to provide each citizen with a biometricbased National Identification Card (UID project) has captured the world's attention.***

BPO outsourcing however is not the only field affected by data protection issues in India. News concerning the Indian government's plan to provide each citizen with a biometricbased National Identification Card (UID project) has captured the world's attention. Biometric identity cards will provide an identity to millions of people who do not possess any proof of existence and is expected to help in fighting terrorism and criminality. But the huge online database that will retain citizens' personal information may represent a threat for privacy and data protection.

The RISE project was officially launched in March 2009 within the scope of the European Seventh Framework Programme (7FP), Science in Society theme. Its mission is to create an internationally recognized ethical framework to be used while planning and managing security policies, notably biometrics. The RISE consortium brings together 9 European and non-European partners, located in 8 different countries (5 EU Member States, US, China and India). Partners include 3 universities, 2 private research centres, 2 stakeholder associations, 1 public research institution and 1 consultancy. For further information on the project and next meetings, please visit the RISE website <http://www.riseproject.eu/>.

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