



2017/2274(INI)

25.1.2018

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the state of EU-China relations
(2017/2274(INI))

Rapporteur: Stefan Eck

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the reforms undertaken by China since the launch of its ‘ecological civilisation’ approach; considers the special status granted to environmental NGOs in courts, audits of the environmental impact of the work of officials and high investment in electro-mobility and clean energy as reforms in the right direction;
2. Welcomes China’s 2016 action plan to tackle antimicrobial resistance; stresses the importance of cooperation between China, which accounts for half the world’s annual antimicrobial drug consumption, and the EU in tackling this global threat;
3. Welcomes the state guidelines encouraging Chinese citizens to reduce their meat consumption significantly by 2030; encourages the Union and China to join forces to move towards a more sustainable agro-food production and consumption system that will improve global food security, safety and traceability and promote healthy diets, animal health and animal welfare;
4. Takes note of China’s decision to ban imports of solid waste, which highlights the importance of the process of designing, producing, repairing, reusing and recycling products; recalls China’s recent attempt to ban exports of rare earth elements and asks the Commission to take into consideration the interdependence of the global economies when prioritising EU policies;
5. Points out that the Union and China are heavily dependent on fossil fuels and together account for around a third of total global consumption, which places China at the top of the World Health Organisation (WHO) ranking for deadly outdoor air pollution; underlines their mutual interest in promoting low-carbon development and addressing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in transparent, public and well-regulated energy markets;
6. Hopes that China will uncouple economic growth from ecological degradation, by incorporating biodiversity protection into its ongoing global strategies, facilitating the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and implementing the ivory trade ban effectively.