**Petras Auštrevičius (ALDE).** – Mr President, the recent EU-China summit has witnessed the fact that both parties are stepping up their cooperation in many fields, including security, defence, anti-terrorism and climate change.

Certainly, China is seeking greater influence in Europe due to its growing investments in strategic infrastructure. However, we must be rather cautious and think how to counter-balance this influence in order to preserve our democracy and not to be indebted to Chinese banks.

I wish to highlight that the European Union also should continue to speak up for press freedom, human rights and other fundamental liberties in this country. I agree with this report’s conclusions and the relationship with China, if pursued with cautious diplomacy, can be a great opportunity not only for the European Union and China, but for global stability too, although it is crucial that we remain very loyal to our values, and to democracy and human rights.