

Concept as at 12/7

**MEP China visit
'People to People cooperation for
prosperity and friendship'**

14 - 22 July 2017 (incl. flights)
Beijing, Zhengzhou, Nanjing and Yancheng



EU-CHINA



Background of the initiative

1. Starting the cooperation 2007 - 2015

In the legislative period 2007 - 2014, the EPP Group in the European Parliament initiated a pilot project on the global aspects of cohesion policy. With their financial support, different concrete cooperation initiatives between the EU and China were set up, for example in the framework of the EC World Cities programme.

In this context, and in his capacity as EPP-Regi coordinator, Lambert van Nistelrooij organised and participated in several official meetings in the European Parliament. (For more information, see the 'Report on EU-China policy cooperation 2006-2015').

Since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the EU in 2004, we supported the European cooperation with the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission; this cooperation is now an integral part of the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation. This preparation has led to several projects that are at stake now.

In addition, Lambert van Nistelrooij also worked on improving the relations with the Chinese community in The Netherlands, in close cooperation with the Dutch Chinese Chamber of Commerce (DCCC).

In **2011**, Lambert van Nistelrooij and the DCCC could arrange the first EP working visit to China, hosted by the China Zhi Gong Party of the Overseas Chinese. Three Members of the European Parliament accepted this invitation and took part.

In **2015**, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Franc Bogovic and the DCCC could arrange a second working visit to China, hosted by the China Zhi Gong Party of the Overseas Chinese. Seven Members of the European Parliament accepted this invitation and participated in a working visit to Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai. Mr. Woo, the former president of the Dutch Chinese Chamber of Commerce has participated in both visits.



The 2015 delegation from left to right: Brando Benifei (S&D), Claudia Schmidt (EPP), Elzbieta Lukacijewska (EPP), Lambert van Nistelrooij (EPP), Minister Wang Zhigang of Science and Technology, Martina Werner (S&D), Franc Bogovic (EPP).

2. 2017 co-initiative Lambert van Nistelrooij and Franc Bogovic

We are pleased to initiate a working visit to China in **2017**, on the basis of the positive results and friendships of the two earlier visits of the European Parliament. This time, the delegation will be hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the Dutch Chinese Chamber of Commerce (DCCC). The CPAFFC is among the first organisations engaged in people-to-people diplomacy of the People's Republic of China. The understanding and friendship between peoples are the foundation of the relationship between countries. The CPAFFC contributes to the implementation of China's independent policy of peace, inspired by the five principles of peaceful coexistence. It serves as a bridge with the support of the Chinese government and all sectors of society in China and abroad. It carries out people-to-people friendship work in a broad, multi-level manner, enhancing understanding and strengthening cooperation between countries.

This year's study visit is also the outcome of several visits to the European Parliament and the European Commission in Brussels of Chinese who are living in Europe since many years. On 26 January 2016, Chinese citizens from Zheng Zhou and Henan visited Brussels. These Chinese citizens living in Europe are organised in the Wencheng umbrella, which works in the interest of the Chinese people living in different countries throughout the European Union.

3. Goals of the 2017 working visit

The working visit will start on 15 July and ends by 22 July 2017. After Beijing, we will visit Zhengzhou, Nanjing and Yancheng.

The program covers international cooperation between European regions and cities and their Chinese counterparts in the Henan region. Europe has strongly supported the role of citizens in their regions and cities, through the principles of subsidiarity, partnership and shared responsibility. The intensive EU-Chinese cooperation in the field of Urban and Regional Policy in recent years has been fruitful and is a great basis for our visit.

In this framework, we will discuss interregional cooperation. The province of Henan has seen fast economic and social development in recent years. We will discuss developments in the fields of research, development and innovation as well as in agro-food, telecommunications, automotive, transport, energy, and urban social development. The region of Henan has a clear wish to strengthen cooperation with EU-regions and cities. We are open to support such wishes and will work on the necessary contacts in Europe.

4. Rules for participation in the trip for the Members of the European Parliament:

- a) The final list of participants, including a CV and picture, is sent to the Chinese host CPAFFC, after their formal invitation has been received.
- b) MEP's will cover their flight costs from their article 22 IMSM budget line ("additional travel"). We will participate with at least 10 members of the parliament from several European countries.
- c) Our hosts in China will take care of and cover local transportation, and 7 nights of accommodation.
- d) A valid passport and a visa are required. Members have to apply for a Chinese visa immediately after receiving a formal invitation by the CPAFFC.

5. Further preparation

After you have confirmed your interest in participating, you will be invited to some specific actions:

- A preparatory meeting with the participating Members of Parliament in June 2017 (tbc);
- To come forward with your wishes regarding completing the programme of the visit.



Draft programme

*** Day 0 Friday 14 July**

Flight from Europe to Beijing

*** Day 1 Saturday 15 July**

Morning

Arrival in Beijing.

- At arrival at Beijing capital airport, you will be awaited by representatives of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) in the airport terminal where you arrive. They will arrange the transfer to the hotel in Beijing. At arrival, please contact Ms Xiu Yujia at phone number 0086-17090317688. Alternatively, please call Ms Shasha Liu at phone number 0086-18-627918700 or Marijn Verhees (assistant to Lambert van Nistelrooij) at 0032486746977.

Afternoon

- 13:30: Visit to the 'Palace Museum'.
- 16:00: Visit to Beijing Normal University.

Location: 19 Xijiekou Outer St, BeiTaiPingZhuang, Haidian Qu, Beijing

Evening

- Setting the scene: dinner with Mr Peter Weiss, Head of the Financial Section, EU Delegation China, and Mr Michael Dunford of the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Location: Beijing Normal University

Hotel in Beijing:

Beijing Hotel

NO.33 East Changan Avenue Beijing China

***Day 2 Sunday 16 July**

Morning and afternoon:

- 09:00-10:00: Exchange of views with Hans-Dietmar Schweisgut, Ambassador of the European Union in China.
- Visit to the Great Wall of China.

Evening:

- Delegation dinner hosted by the National Reform and Development Commission (NDRC)

Location: tbc.

Hotel in Beijing:

Beijing Hotel

NO.33 East Changan Avenue Beijing China

***Day 3 Monday 17 July**

Morning

- Meeting with the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).

Location: 1 Taijichang St, Dongcheng Qu, Beijing

- Visit to the Ministry of Commerce: meeting on the 'One belt one Road' strategy.

Location: 2 E Chang'an Ave, Dongcheng Qu, Beijing

Afternoon

- Visit to the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China (Parliament).

Location: Renda Huitang W Rd, Xicheng Qu, Beijing

- Visit to the Overseas Chinese affairs office State Council

Evening:

- 19:00 - 21:31: Bullet train G509 from Beijing to Zhengzhou.

Hotel in Zhengzhou:

Noble International Hotel

21 Jinshui E Rd, Zhengzhou LongHu ShangYe Quan, Jinshui Qu, Zhengzhou Shi, Henan Sheng, China, 450000

***Day 4 Tuesday 18 July**

Morning:

- Visit to the National People's Congress of the Henan Province.

Afternoon:

- Visit to the China Railway Engineering Group.
- Visit to the International Inland Port (China-Europe Express Railway, logistic centre and the control/exhibition centre).
- Visit to the Henan Provincial Logistic and Bonded Zone (the E-commerce centre and logistic centre for imported goods).

Evening:

- Dinner hosted by the mayor of Zhengzhou.

Location: delegation hotel

Hotel in Zhengzhou

Noble International Hotel

21 Jinshui E Rd, Zhengzhou LongHu ShangYe Quan, Jinshui Qu, Zhengzhou Shi, Henan Sheng, China, 450000

***Day 5 Wednesday 19 July**

Morning:

- 08:50 - 11:57: Bullet train G1914 to Nanjing.

Afternoon:

- Visit to the Nanjing Presidential Residence/Confucius Temple.

Evening:

- Dinner hosted by the Foreign Affairs Office of the Jiangsu Provincial People's Government. Also present: representative of the Dutch Noord-Brabant region representative in Nanjing Mr Steven Wang, and

Commercial and Marketing Director of Nanjing Stuttgart Joint Exhibition Ltd and formerly working on the EU World Cities China programme, Mr Oscar Prat.

Hotel in Nanjing
tbd

***Day 6 Thursday 20 July**

Morning:

- Visit to Stuttgart-Nanjing Messe

Afternoon:

- Transfer by bus to Yancheng.

Evening:

- Delegation dinner hosted by the Foreign Affairs Office of the Yencheng government.

Location: tbd.

Hotel in Yancheng:

Yancheng Guest Hotel

1 Tian Shan Lu, Tinghu Qu, Yancheng Shi, Jiangsu Sheng, China

***Day 7 Friday 21 July**

Morning

- 10:00-12:00: Visit to Yancheng Trade Fair.

Afternoon

- Visits to
 - Yancheng State Owned Energy Investment
 - Yancheng TiMike Power Electronics

Evening

- Delegation farewell dinner hosted by Foreign Affairs Office of the Yencheng City People's government.

Location: tbd.

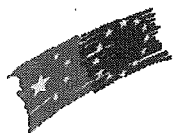
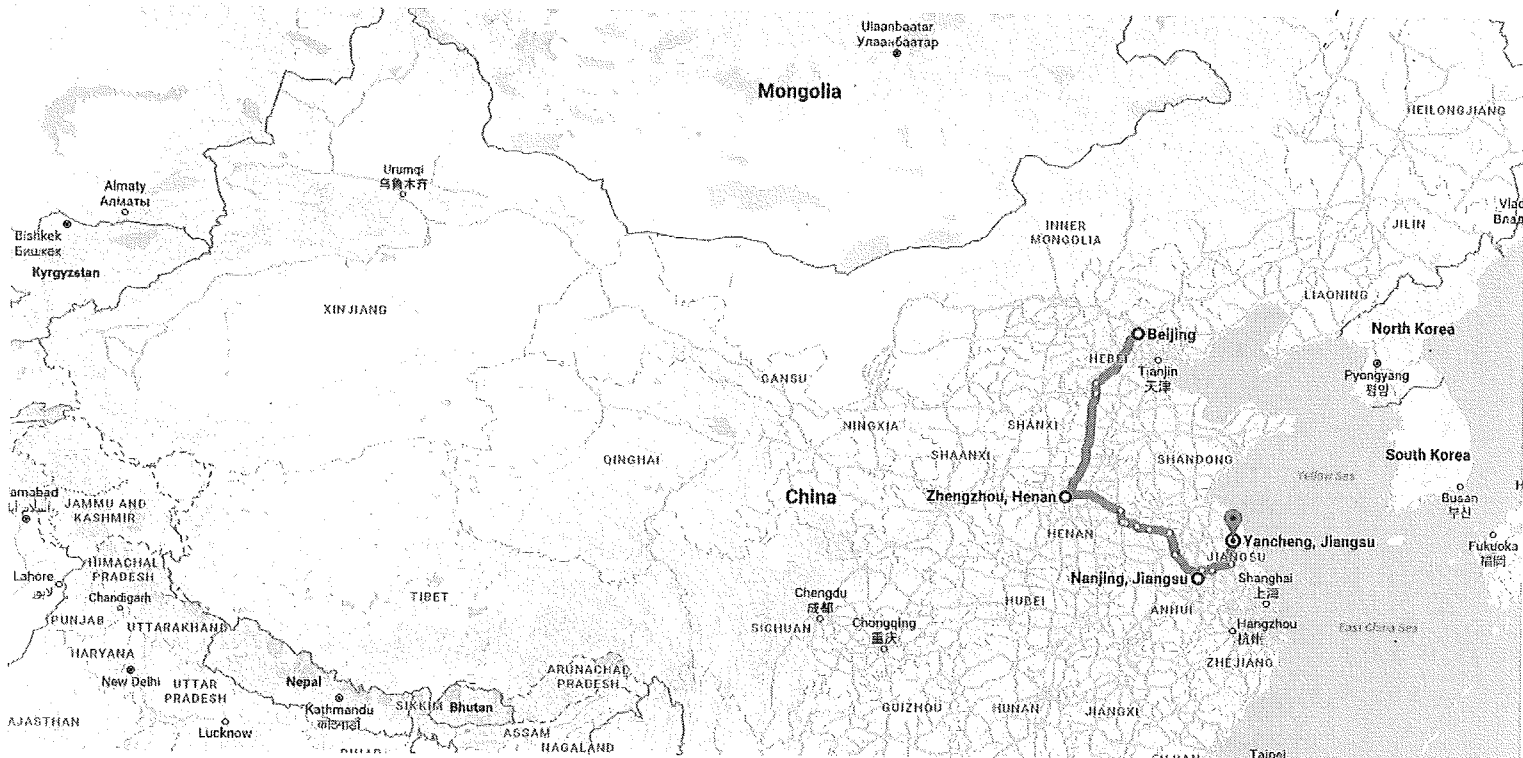
Hotel in Yancheng

Yancheng Guest Hotel

1 Tian Shan Lu, Tinghu Qu, Yancheng Shi, Jiangsu Sheng, China

***Day 8 Saturday 22 July**

Return flight to Europe

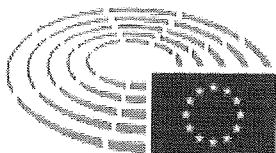


FURTHER READING

For more general background information on China, the European Parliament's EPRS prepared the reader below regarding EU-China relations. Please find it below. Due to the size of the documents, we are mainly providing links.

Apart from that, we have added (links to) regional and urban policy related material:

- [The World Cities final report.](#)
- The presentation from Mr Roland Hall, presented during the prep meeting on 28/6 in the EP regarding the World Cities project.
- [The EC publication "Report on EU-China Regional Policy Cooperation \(2006-2016\)".](#)



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

European Parliamentary Research Service EPRS

EU-China relations: recent developments

Request number:	<u>31051</u>
Requested by:	Lambert van Nistelrooij
End Client:	
Date of request:	28/06/2017
Information sources provided by:	Enrico D'Ambrogio
<u>www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu</u>	

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Personal Data Protection

Dear Mr Lambert van Nistelrooij,

The text below is in answer to your enquiry.

General information

[EU-China relations, fact sheet, EEAS](#)

[EU-China Summit, 01-02/06/2017, website](#)

[EU-China Summit: moving forward with our global partnership, press release, 2 June 2017](#)

Research and innovation

[EU-China Summit: new flagship initiatives in research and innovation, 2 June 2017](#)

*The European Union and China will boost their **research and innovation** cooperation with a new package of flagship initiatives targeting the areas of Food, Agriculture and Biotechnologies, Environment and Sustainable Urbanization, Surface Transport, Safer and Greener aviation, and Biotechnologies for Environment and Human Health.*

[EU-China Summit: moving forward with our global partnership, 2 June 2017](#)

*In the field of research and innovation, the European Union and China have agreed to boost their cooperation with a new package of flagship initiatives targeting the areas of food, agriculture and biotechnologies, environment and sustainable urbanisation, surface transport, safer and greener aviation, and biotechnologies for environment and human health. These initiatives will translate into a number of topics for cooperation with China under Horizon 2020, the EU's funding programme for research and innovation. The 3rd **EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue**, co-chaired by Carlos **Moedas**, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, and Wan Gang, China's Minister of Science and Technology, took place in the margins of the Summit. Both sides agreed on the **renewal of the EU-China co-funding mechanism for research and innovation for the period 2018-2020**, and on its application to future SME cooperation and to support start-ups. Both sides also confirmed their commitment to improving framework conditions, notably reciprocal access to Science and Technology and Innovation resources, and to promoting open access to publications and research. More information is available online.*

*The European Commission's science and knowledge service, the **Joint Research Centre (JRC)**, under the responsibility of Tibor **Navracsics**, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences signed an overarching **Research Framework Arrangement**, building on their longstanding and fruitful cooperation in the field of **remote sensing and earth observation**. The objective of the agreement is to expand their collaboration and develop new scientific approaches in key areas, such as air quality, renewable energy, climate, environmental protection, digital economy, regional Innovation policy and Smart Specialisation. More information is available online.*

[EU cooperation with China in the field of research and innovation](#)

[Roadmap for EU-China S&T cooperation](#)

Regional and urban cooperation

Commissioner Crețu meets Vice Chairman Hu in EU-China 2017 Summit event, 6 June 2017.

The Commissioner and the Vice-Chairman reviewed recent cooperation actions on regional and urban policy, and the plans for next steps, notably the recent launch of the EU-China city-to city component of the EU's new International Urban Cooperation programme. In the presence of the Commissioner and the Vice Chairman, nine cities - 5 from China and 4 from the EU, with Prague set to join the IUC programme as the fifth EU city - signed a Joint Declaration committing them to the IUC programme and to promoting longer-term cooperation on sustainable urban development themes.

Joint Declaration between pilot cities for EU-China Regional and Urban Policy Cooperation supported by the International Urban Cooperation Programme, 31 May 2017.

On 31 May 2017, the 10th EU-China High-Level Dialogue on Regional Policy was held in Brussels. As part of the implementation of the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation, regional and urban policy cooperation will be intensified, based on amicable consultation among, respectively, the pilot cities of China and EU selected for 2017. The cities concerned are, in the first instance, Zhengzhou, Chongqing, Shantou, Jingyue High-tech Zone of Changchun, Longyan, Agii Anargyri-Kamatero, Mannheim, Burgas, Málaga, Prague (hereinafter referred to as "IUC cities").

12th High Level Dialogue on Regional and Urban Policy Cooperation A Side Event of the EU-China Summit, Agenda, 31 May 2017.

Regional policy: EU - China, European Commission, DG REGIO (this page contains many links)

On 15 May 2006, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on regional policy cooperation was signed with the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission to exchange information and best practices on experiences in setting up and implementing cohesion policy.

The exchange programme known as CETREGIO (Chinese European Training on Regional Policy) has created strong links between EU and Chinese cities and regions. In the period 2010-2014, 220 Chinese decision makers from all 31 provinces have shared experiences and visited good practices in more than 45 regions of 17 EU Member States.

China was one of the four non-EU countries selected in 2015-2016 to participate in the EU regional and urban policy action in the field of international cooperation, known as World Cities); which pairs the cities of Wuhan-Barcelona (ES); Chengdu-Dublin (IE); Guangzhou-Lyon (FR); Shantou-Andalucía (ES); Tianjin-West Midlands (UK). The action proved highly successful, including from the point of view of producing new commercial opportunities for European and Chinese business.

A new programme will be implemented from 2017 as part of the actions under the International Urban Cooperation programme (IUC) to scale up and take forward previous successful cooperation between EU and Chinese regions and cities.

(China is facing considerable regional development disparities between the booming coastal regions, the underdeveloped Western parts of the country and the decline of traditional heavy industry in the North East and more general income disparities, particularly in relation to the urban/rural divide.)

EU-China cooperation on regional policy, Perspectives in Science, March 2016.

Although the European Union and China are different in terms of area, population, economic, social, political and cultural development, both of them have to face similar challenge – the significant regional disparities and unbalanced regional development. Based on this the EU-China cooperation on regional policy has been launched and there is huge potential to develop mutual learning initiatives to allow their regions developed.

Seeing the People’s Republic of China through the Eyes of Montesquieu: Why Sino-European Collaboration on Eco City Development Suffers from European Misinterpretations of “Good Governance”, Sustainability, 7 February 2017.

China faces a number of impressive challenges in dealing with climate change: rising energy use, growing emission levels of greenhouse gases, dangerous levels of air pollution over cities and low resilience against flood and drought. Sustainable urbanization has been adopted as a keyword in handling these challenges. The Chinese central government has undertaken a variety of measures, including the launch of large Sino-European programs to learn from ‘developed nations’. In the wake of these partnerships, a great variety of cross-national and cross-city agreements were signed. Sino-European cooperation does not often run as smoothly as initially hoped because of diverging interests, cultural misunderstandings and practical limitations. In the background, a mismatch in normative conceptions Chinese and European participants have of ‘good governance’ plays a role.

Energy policy

EU-China Summit: moving forward with our global partnership, 2 June 2017.

*Following the EU-China **High Level Energy Dialogue**, which took place this morning, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete and Mr Nur Bekri, Vice-Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission and Administrator of the National Energy Administration of China signed the Work Plan 2017-2018 of the Technical Implementation of the EU-China Roadmap on Energy Cooperation. This Roadmap, agreed in June 2016, commits both sides to tackling common energy and climate challenges, including security of energy supply, energy infrastructure and market transparency. The Roadmap lays the foundations for sharing best practices with regards to energy regulation, demand and supply analysis, energy crisis, and nuclear safety, as well as grid design and the integration of renewable energy into the electricity grid.*

EU-China Energy Dialogue: clean energy in an international context, 2 June 2017.

Shifting policy priorities in EU-China energy relations: Implications for Chinese energy investments in Europe, Energy Policy, February 2017.

EU-China agree to boost energy cooperation, 29 June 2016.

EU-China Roadmap on energy cooperation (2016-2020)

7th EU-China Forum takes place in Brussels Belgium, International energy Charter, 30 June 2017

The EU-China Energy Cooperation. An Institutional Analysis, EIAS, February 2017.

As one of the components of the EU–China relations, the EU–China energy relationship has experienced an evolution of institutionalization for over two decades. Now, an EU–China energy cooperation institutional framework has been constructed. These institutions have been playing a significant role in helping EU–China energy cooperation by promoting bilateral dialogues and fostering cooperation projects. However, they still face some flaws. The EU and China should continue taking the

construction of institutions seriously, and commit to optimize the institutional framework to make it more representative, pragmatic and efficient.

Recent news on other issues

2017 Situation Report on Counterfeiting and Piracy in the European Union. Europol and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), 22 June 2017.

The majority of counterfeit goods come from China: the development of the Silk Road and the corresponding increasing use of rail and maritime transport between China and the EU support also new threats in the IPR crime landscape.

China denounces accusations it is main source of fake goods in EU. Reuter, 29 June 2017.

Angela Merkel open to EU veto power on China investments. The Economic Times, 29 June 2017.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said on 29 June that she was considering how to protect "strategic" EU industries from Chinese investment, drawing closer to the position of French President Emmanuel Macron. "Europe must work hard to defend its influence and above all to speak with one voice to China," Merkel told business weekly WirtschaftsWoche.

How China Turned Greece Into a Dependable EU Partner, World Politics Review, 28 June 2017.

Earlier this month, Greece blocked a European Union statement at the United Nations that would have criticized China's human rights record, with Athens saying it was opposed to "unconstructive criticism." The move prompted a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman to publicly thank Greece "for upholding the correct position." EU diplomats and rights groups, however, were less than pleased. Human Rights Watch and nine other groups issued a statement saying the EU's credibility was being battered by its inability to adopt a coherent position on China's human rights record. In an email interview, Rem Korteweg, head of the Europe in the World Unit at the Clingendael Institute in the Netherlands, explains how Chinese investment in Greece has facilitated closer bilateral relations, turning Greece into a reliable friend.

Macron's investment screening idea watered down by leaders, EUobserver, 23 June 2017.

Latest EPRS analysis on EU-China relations and on China

All publications are authored by Gisela Grieger, Members' Research Service, External Policies Unit.

De jure versus de facto labour rights in China, June 2017.

Protection from dumped and subsidised imports, June 2017.

Foreign direct investment screening: A debate in light of China-EU FDI flows, May 2017.

China, the 16+1 cooperation format and the EU, March 2017.

Why China's public procurement is an EU issue, December 2016.

China's WTO accession: 15 years on - Taking, shaking or shaping WTO rules?, December 2016.

China and the South China Sea issue, September 2016.

One Belt, One Road (OBOR): China's regional integration initiative, July 2016.

Further comments and analysis on EU-China relations

Can the EU and China act together? Europe's world, 23 June 2017.

But it is also apparent that the EU and China cannot patch things up easily. The recent EU-China summit in Brussels made this fact abundantly clear. Because of the EU's refusal to grant market economy status to China an expected EU-China joint declaration on climate change was not agreed. Instead, the focus during the summit shifted to deep differences between China and the EU. Negotiations on an EU-China investment agreement stalled; the EU continues to deplore limited market access and Chinese dumping, especially in the steel sector. EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström was critical of Beijing: "The welcome commitments from [China] about liberalization have not been matched by concrete action".

Ambivalence among EU members yields to China on human rights, Asia Times, 29 June 2017.

After demonstrating unity for the protection of European industries against Chinese unfair market practices, the European Union has failed to agree on an effective approach to the problem of human rights abuses in China. The EU and China held the 35th round of their human rights dialogue in Brussels last week. The two-day meeting, attended by low-level government delegations on both sides, came after Greece's decision to block an EU declaration at the recent session of the United Nations Human Right Council condemning Beijing's human-rights record.

Commentary: It's right time for China, EU to deepen cooperation, Xinhua, 5 July 2017

With the 12th G20 summit on the horizon, it's the right time for China and the European Union (EU) to deepen ties, especially in promoting free trade and tackling climate change.

The Trump effect on EU-China relations, Elcano Royal Institute, 7 June 2017

For the time being, Donald Trump's decisions on defence and trade have not been so significant as to trigger a realignment of relations between the US, China and the EU. However, his term in office throws up opportunities for the strengthening of relations between the EU and China, especially if Europe decides to intensify its Common Security and Defence Policy and Beijing decides to take its process of economic reforms further and attain a greater level of reciprocity with Europe in terms of its trade and financial regulations.

Despite Expectations of a Trump Effect, No Honeymoon in EU-China Relations, World Politics Review, 22 June 2017

We trust this will be useful but do not hesitate to contact us again if you need further information.

- **DG EXPO: Transformation of China and global economic interdependence**
- **EPRS: China's WTO accession: 15 years on: taking, shaking or shaping WTO rules?**
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