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China's Approach to the CEE-16

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Executive Summary

- The outward expansion of Chinese capital and companies in any real volume started in 1998 with the creation of the “going global” strategy sanctioned by the central government;
- Implementation of the “going global” strategy supporting the internationalization of Chinese brands was outlined in the tenth, eleventh and twelfth Five-Year Plans, where the macroeconomic focus shifted from competitive advantage, promotion of exports and resources to international mergers and acquisitions, modern agriculture, high-end technology, advanced manufacturing, new energy, research & development, advanced international management;
- Chinese policy toward the EU is outlined in “China’s EU Policy Paper” issued by the State Council in October 2003, which recognizes the EU as a major force in the world. It outlines the importance that China attaches to the development of the EU and its members’ relations with China, and promotes a long term and stable development of China-EU relations based on Chinese economic growth and its huge market and abundant labor force, alongside the EU’s advanced technologies and strong financial resources;
- China sees Central and Eastern Europe as a block of 16 countries; In September 2012, the China-CEE Cooperation Secretariat was established and its first national coordinator’s meeting held, where several principles were it was recognized that the CEE’s cooperation with China is far behind that of the developed EU member states;
- The “12 Measures” Strategy was introduced in September 2012 where, among other things,
 - a US\$10 billion special credit line was established, which due to regulatory frameworks has thus far been used mostly by non-EU countries;
 - an investment cooperation fund between China and CEE was set up with the goal of raising US\$500 million in the first stage; China would like to work with CEE countries to increase total two-way trade to US\$100 billion by 2015;
 - a currency swap (a RMB10 billion (1.2 billion Euro) three-year deal was made with Hungary, and with Albania for RMB2 billion (240 million Euro);
- The main driver of this changing focus from developed EU countries to CEE countries is the Eurozone crisis and growth performance of CEE countries;
- The technology structure of Chinese trade with the CEE is changing. CEE countries increasingly import higher technology products from China, while exports to China remain largely low-tech.

Background Briefing: China's Approach to the CEE-16

1. Background

The Chinese approach to Europe is not dictated by the by EU member states but is something articulated by the Chinese themselves. The CEE-16 represents the following countries:

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Hungary
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Macedonia
- Montenegro
- Poland
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia

However, we first outline the foundations of Chinese economic and political relations with Europe.

1.1 Chinese Five-Year Plans (2001-2015)

The spectacular growth in China in recent decades has created an appetite for both resources and markets. On one side China faces the possibility of supply constraint for its development and on the other side requires expanding markets for its products. In response to this situation, the Chinese government created the "going global" strategy which was first announced in 1998. By creating such a strategy, China facilitated both diplomatically and financially state-owned and privately-owned companies to be engaged in investment opportunities outside China, making China a major capital exporter. The starting aim was investment in natural resources and infrastructure projects in developing countries.

The **Tenth Five-Year plan (2001-2005)** section on "going global" outlined an implementation strategy. It encouraged outward investment that reflected China's competitive advantage, and sought to expand the areas, channels and methods of international economic and technological cooperation. It encouraged enterprises with competitive advantages to develop overseas processing trade, promote the export of products, services and technology. Furthermore, it supported overseas

exploitation of resources of which there are shortages in China, encouraged enterprises to utilize human intellectual resources abroad and supported capable enterprises to operate overseas and grow globally. The strategy also suggested the improvement of the service system to better enable outward investments, the creation of conditions to implement the strategy in areas such as finance, insurance, foreign exchange, taxation, human resources, law, information services, and exit-entry administration, but it also sought the improvement of the corporate governance structure and internal restraint systems of enterprises engaging in outward investment, and the standardization of its supervision.

In the **Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2006-2010)** the section on “going global” outlined support for qualified enterprises to engage in outward direct investment and global operations. It gave priority to competitive industries, and provided guidance for enterprises engaging in overseas processing trade. The strategy also encouraged the promotion of diversification of product place of origin. Furthermore, it suggested cultivating and developing Chinese multinational corporations through international mergers and acquisitions, equity participation, public listing, restructuring and consolidation.

In the **Twelfth Five-Year Plan (2011-2015)** the focus shifted to “bringing in” and “going out”, whereby China seeks to pay equal attention to both foreign investment in China and Chinese investment abroad. Furthermore, China intends to increase the level of foreign capital usage. In doing so China hopes to optimize the structure of foreign capital, guide foreign investment to the sectors of modern agriculture, high-end technology, advanced manufacturing, new energy, modern services industry etc., but also encourage foreign capital to be invested in the middle and western parts of China. The plan also marked China’s intention to bring in senior talent and advanced technology from overseas and encourage foreign enterprises to set up R&D centers in China, learn advanced international management concepts and systems, actively integrating into the global innovation system, optimize the soft environment of investments and protect the legal rights of investors. Also, favorable foreign lending and international commercial lending will be used effectively to optimize the management of foreign debt.

In the section on “going global” strategy the speeding up of implementation is set forth. China will follow the strategy of market orientation, support technology R&D investment, encourage manufacturing industry to internationalize marketing and sales channels, and acquire famous brands. Furthermore, the strategy supports signing mutual agreements on investment protection and double taxation avoidance. Also, Chinese enterprises with overseas operations are encouraged to bear corporate social responsibility in mind.

1.2 EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation

The EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation brings together the Europe 2020 strategy and the Chinese Five-Year plans. Both sides have agreed to fully implement the Agenda through their annual Summits. The strategic guidance is to be performed through three pillars directly underpinning the Summit, namely, the annual High Level Strategic Dialogue, the annual High Level

Economic and Trade Dialogue, and the bi-annual People-to-People Dialogue. The Agenda's chapter on regional policy states that the EU and China will:

- Promote mutual understanding and cooperation in the field of regional policy
- Continue to ensure the success of the EU-China High Level Dialogue and Seminar on Regional Policy, carry out exchanges on major regional policies inducing growth, competitiveness, innovation, regional cooperation, and coordinated regional development
- Conduct joint research on basic and forward-looking issues of regional development, continue capacity training programmes for related personnel
- Encourage direct contact and cooperation between respective regional and local authorities and promote pilot demonstration projects

2. "12 Measures" Strategy

In Warsaw, in April 2012, Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao announced several measures for promoting friendship and cooperation entitled "China's 12 Measures for Promoting Friendly Cooperation with Central and Eastern European Countries". The document was inaugurated as a new Chinese engagement strategy in the CEE region (for China CEE consists of 16 states: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Macedonia, Montenegro, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Poland, Serbia, Slovak Republic and Slovenia). The Strategy consists of the following measures:

1. Set up a secretariat for cooperation between China and central and eastern European countries. The secretariat will be based in China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and charged with communication and coordination on matters related to cooperation, preparation for leaders' meetings and business forums, and the implementation of relevant outcomes. The 16 central and eastern European countries will each designate a counterpart department and coordinator to take part in the work of the secretariat.
2. Establish a US\$10 billion special credit line, a certain proportion of which will be concessional loans, with a focus on cooperation projects in areas such as infrastructure, high and new technologies, and the green economy. The 16 central and eastern European countries may file project applications to the National Development Bank of China, Export and Import Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Construction Bank of China, Bank of China or China Citic Bank.
3. Set up an investment cooperation fund between China and central and eastern European countries with the goal of raising US\$500 million in the first stage.
4. China will send trade and investment promotion missions to central and eastern European countries and take concrete steps to move forward bilateral economic cooperation and trade. China would like to work with the 16 central and eastern European countries to increase total two-way trade to US\$100 billion by 2015.

5. China will, in the light of actual conditions and needs of central and eastern European countries, encourage Chinese enterprises to cooperate with relevant countries to establish one economic and technological zone in each country in the next five years. China will continue to encourage and support more Chinese enterprises to take part in the development of existing economic and technological zones in the relevant countries.
6. China stands ready to actively explore with the 16 central and eastern European countries financial cooperation such as a currency swap, local currency settlement for cross-border trade, and establishment of bank branches in each other's countries, with a view to enhancing support and services for practical cooperation.
7. Establish an expert advisory committee on the construction of a transportation network between China and central and eastern European countries. With the Ministry of Commerce of China as the coordinator and the 16 central and eastern European countries participating on a voluntary basis, China and the European countries will explore the building of a regional highway or railway demonstration network through joint venture, joint contracting and other means.
8. Propose a forum on cultural cooperation between China and central and eastern European countries in 2013 in China and, in this context, hold regular high-level and expert meetings on culture, cultural festivals and theme activities.
9. Provide 5,000 scholarships to the 16 central and eastern European countries in the next five years. Support the Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms program in the 16 countries and invite 1,000 students from relevant countries to study the Chinese language in China in the next five years. Enhance inter-university exchanges and joint academic research, and send 1,000 students and scholars to the 16 countries in the next five years. The Ministry of Education of China plans to host an education policy dialogue with central and eastern European countries in 2015.
10. Propose to establish a tourism promotion alliance between China and central and eastern European countries, which will be coordinated by China Tourism Administration and open to participation by civil aviation authorities, travel agencies and airline companies of the two sides. The purpose is to enhance mutual business promotion and joint tourist destination development, and explore the possibility of opening more direct flights between China and the 16 central and eastern European countries. China Tourism Administration plans to co-organize a tourism products promotion for China and central and eastern European countries during the China International Tourism Mart to be held in Shanghai this autumn.
11. Establish a research fund on relations between China and central and eastern European countries. China is ready to provide RMB2 million yuan (240,000 Euro) every year to support academic exchanges between research institutes and scholars of the two sides.
12. China plans to host the first young political leaders forum of China and central and eastern European countries in 2013 and invite youth representatives from both sides to the forum to enhance mutual understanding and friendship.

On September 6, 2012 there was a ceremony in Beijing marking the establishment of the China-Central and Eastern Europe Cooperation Secretariat and its first national coordinators' meeting. After meeting, Song Tao, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Secretary-General of the Secretariat, in answering questions from journalist stressed several key points:

- CEE countries are still far behind the developed EU member states in terms of cooperation with China
- Despite a combined area of around 1.3 million square kilometers and a total population of 123 million, the 16 CEE countries are about the size of Italy in terms of their trade with China, which is only US\$50 billion (36.6 billion Euro)
- The CEE-16 attract less Chinese investment than Sweden alone and invest less in China than Austria
- The “12 Measures” are for facilitating expansion of cooperation and scaling up cooperation between China and the EU
- China’s cooperation with CEE-16 is without doubt a part of China-EU relations

The first step of the “12 Measures” Strategy was undertaken by establishing a special Secretariat for Cooperation between China and the CEE in the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and appointment of Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Song Tao as Secretary General. The established Secretariat is responsible for coordinating various institutions responsible for implementation of the “12 Measures”, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the National Development and Reform Commission, and the ministries of Finance, Commerce, Transport, Agriculture, Education, Culture and others. The other mission for the Secretariat is to maintain regular contact with partners from the CEE-16.

The decision that stands out the most is that to launch a credit line worth US\$10 billion. Thus far, the main carriers of the credit line, China Exim Bank and China Development Bank, have signed agreements with Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro (all non EU countries) and are engage in ongoing negotiations with Bulgaria and Romania. This line of credit has not been fully exploited by the CEE-16 countries due to the fact that conditions attached to such agreements may conflict with EU regulations. One of the main problems regards sovereignty guarantees, where China requires its investment to utilise Chinese companies and labour. During July 2013 China sent more than 30 trade and investment promotion missions to the region. Several new branches of Chinese banks opened in the CEE, the first of which opened by the Bank of China in Warsaw and the second in Hungary. The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China set up its first CEE division in Poland. Furthermore, China has been active in currency swaps, signing a three-year deal with Hungary worth RMB10 billion (1.2 billion Euro). It has also signed a three-year deal with Albania worth RMB2 billion (240 million Euro). The list of investments and the contracts of Chinese firms with CEE countries is provided in the table below.

Year	Investor	Amount (in million Euros)	Sector	Country
2010	Wanhua Industrial	140	Chemicals	Hungary
2010	China Communications Construction	192	Transport	Serbia
2010	Dongfang Electric	523	Energy	Bosnia and Herzegovina
2010	Sinomach	162	Energy	Serbia
2011	Wanhua Industrial	1223	Chemicals	Hungary
2011	Wanhua Industrial	192	Chemicals	Hungary
2012	Guangxi Liu Gong Machinery	73	Transport	Poland
2012	Huawei	1106	Technology	Hungary
2012	China Power Investment	545	Energy	Poland
2013	China Communications Construction	626	Transport	Serbia
2013	China Energy Engineering	413	Energy	Poland
2013	Shandong Gaosu	243	Transport	Serbia

On other “12 Measures” issues, in 2012 European countries were part of a special promotion to showcase tourism during the tourist fair in Shanghai. In 2013 China organized the China-CEE Cultural Cooperation Forum, China-CEE Education Policy Dialogue and a meeting of Chinese and CEE local leaders. In October 2013, the International Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party held its first young political leaders forum in Beijing.

While several challenges still lie ahead more than one year after the “12 Measures” were first established, they remain a clear indication that the CEE-16 has become an increasingly important element for Chinese foreign policy. China now acknowledges that some measures were not placed correctly and lacked consultations with CEE-16 countries, namely the credit line. Modification of the credit line is currently under way in order to make it more accessible for the EU member states.

China sees the CEE-16 as one block of former socialist countries with long diplomatic relations. However, in reality the CEE-16 countries are now different in terms of their size, economic development, and even geographical location, with five of them not classified as EU member states. Thus it is very difficult to come up with common ground with regard to their relations with China and they may sometimes be competitors, as recent rivalry among Romania, Serbia and Bulgaria over who would host the second China-CEE-16 meeting shows. In addition, some forms of cooperation with China might be perceived as undermining overall China-EU policy, thus the CEE states may be reluctant to appoint high-ranking coordinators for cooperation with the Secretariat.

3. Culture and Eurozone crises

China today possesses roughly one third of global currency reserves. The reserves are large enough to buy out the combined debt of all troubled nations and have some to spare. In 2011, the EU became China’s largest trading partner, surpassing the US. It is estimated that China will surpass the US to become the largest market in the world by 2030.

As China sees Central and Eastern Europe as a block, the CEE countries need to come up with a coherent strategy towards China. This should not be based on pure investment strategy and financial analysis, but rather on political, cultural and regulatory frameworks. As stated above, China already has a long term strategy toward the CEE. It is on the side of the CEE where there is a lack of long term thinking, reacting to short term problems in haste, rather than on long term foundations.

Both firms and governments in the CEE need to work together in order to first analyze and then put out a strategy, with both sides doing more in terms of education and research. However, businesses in the CEE are very skeptical of government, which poses as a serious problem. Unless there is clear and strong cooperation between private and public entities there is not much hope of developing a more coherent economic policy towards China. The position of the European Commission is not to act unilaterally toward China, however member states continue to do so at their own will. Even though the President of the EU claims that there have been no changes in the relationship between China and the EU since the first summit in 2003, the reality is different. For one, the EU has grown to 28 states and now includes CEE countries among its members. While official EU statements stress the importance of building strategic mutual trust with China, the EU has sent discordant signals e.g. antidumping campaigns against Chinese solar panels.

China also has special relations with some CEE countries such as Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine and Belarus. These countries have good relations with China due to a fact that they do not pursue sensitive issues like human rights, Tibet or Taiwan. In general, human rights has been a key issue for CEE countries since 1989, however, after 2008, a number of countries have taken on a more pragmatic approach, which may be attributed to Chinese economic success. For example, in the Czech Republic, in the aftermath of former President Vaclav Havel's policies (Havel refused to visit China on account of human rights violations and received the Taiwanese president), the country has taken a more pragmatic approach and an infrastructure for developing relations was established.

Investment and trade relations with Chinese consortiums are politically sensitive, and can involve political influence, where countries may be punished if rules are not followed or taboos are broken. This issue is demonstrated through the visit of the Dalai Lama to Poland in 2008, which resulted in all Chinese business delegations were canceled the following year. Conversely, the Hungarian Prime Minister's refusal to meet with the Dalai Lama in 2010 resulted in Chinese authorities pushing Chinese enterprises to invest in Hungary.

Chinese influence is also exerted through soft power, as seen through the 21 Confucius Institutes established in the CEE to promote a positive image of China. However, the CEE perception of China tends to lack knowledge and understanding. Furthermore, there are inefficiencies on the Chinese side as well; while China Radio broadcasts in seven CEE languages, its take-up is low.

The world economic crisis has influenced China's strategy toward Europe. On one side lies Europe with its debt, growth and employment problems. On the other side is China that needs markets for its exports, know-how and access to high-tech. What is worrying is the tendency for Europeans to compete among each other to attract business from China, thus damaging their common bargaining power.

The aim of China is to build up chains of influence in Europe that extend from transport (ports, airports, roads) to local assembly and logistics, to distribution. The focus is shifting from Western Europe to South, Central and Eastern Europe. For China, it is easier to invest in countries in need of cash than to play human rights game with richer countries.

Furthermore, the growth performance of the CEE economies alongside the Eurozone crisis has highlighted the CEE countries as a dynamic place for Chinese money. Besides growth rates, the CEE is also attractive for its high intellectual potential, the relative safety of doing deals due to the EU institutional framework (which may pose a problem for EU member states wishing to use the special designated credit line, but may be advantage for non-EU states) and its entrepreneurial spirit which is attractive for venture capital and private equity.

Due to higher growth rates in the CEE than the rest of Europe, it seems likely that Chinese investments will continue. On the other hand, in countries with stagnant growth China is likely to take advantage to buy out assets put on sale by cash-strapped governments.

4. Conclusion

It is clear from the analysis above that Chinese policy towards the CEE is a long term one that rests on defined strategy and policy, with implementation defined by Five-Year Plans. As of 1998 when the “going global” strategy was introduced, along with supporting policy documents, a number of goals have been fulfilled – a trend that is likely to continue.

As Chinese growth and development efforts give measureable results and growth rates remain high, China is likely to expand beyond its set targets in future. We have witnessed a refocusing of Chinese international ventures from comparative advantages in labour and resource-seeking behaviour, to its present focus on high technologies, international mergers and acquisitions, modern agriculture, advanced manufacturing, new energy, modern service industry, attracting senior talent and advanced technology from overseas, advanced international management and protection of the legal rights of investors. China is also pushing towards increased R&D investment and cooperation, market orientation, corporate social responsibility and the environment.

At the same time the CEE countries, both EU and non-EU members, have seen better growth performance (although there is variation among the countries) which has attracted the focus of Chinese investment and trade. The flow and stock of foreign direct investment from the CEE to China is very modest or even insignificant from a Chinese perspective. To some extent, the same can be said for trade too. Thus, China is ready to facilitate greater cooperation through the “12 Measures” Strategy between China and CEE. Full implementation of these measures are still not in a full swing, with non-EU countries currently making the most out of the arrangement, but with good prospects for Romania and Bulgaria. However, it should be noted that besides the low value added and low tech products that are traditional for Chinese trade, high-tech products are becoming an increasing part of Chinese exports to CEE. In contrast, the CEE has not pushed forward in terms of exporting more value added or more advanced technology products to China. This may lead to future worsening of trade balances with China.

Finally, one important aspect that might be overlooked by CEE governments and firms is the cultural aspect of its relations with China. Unlike European corporate culture, where business comes first and personal relationships later, for the Chinese, interpersonal relationships and cultural ties come before professional alliances. Cultural relations are at the core of dealing with China.

5. Policy Recommendations

- Due to unreliable and conflicting data, a special data center on Chinese trade and investment should be established;
- Conflicting interests among CEE countries should be resolved when dealing with China (at least among the EU member states). While bilateral relations with China should continue, the CEE countries need to construct a common ground for a joint approach to China;
- The existing legal framework (mostly EU law) is a major point of misunderstanding to be resolved in order to increase Chinese investment in CEE;
- Looking to Poland may provide a good starting point for better utilization of the Chinese cooperation proposal since Poland is China's largest economic partner in the CEE region;
- Education on Chinese culture should be further enhanced through education and cultural exchange;
- The EU should increase and facilitate visits of government officials, firms and academics in order to foster cultural ties that can be finalized with greater economic and cultural exchange and cooperation.

6. Annex - Diplomatic activity of CEE-16 countries 2010-2013

1.1 Albania

- Assistant Foreign Minister Cheng Guoping met with Delegation of Consular Consultations of Albania on May 17, 2010
- Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi made an interview with Albanian press on August 3, 2011
- Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi Holds talks with Albanian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Haxhinasto on August 3, 2011
- Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi met with Albanian Parliament Speaker Topalli on August 5, 2011
- Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi met with Albanian President Topi on August 5, 2011
- President Hu Jintao accepts credentials from new Albania ambassador on August 8, 2011
- Vice Premier Li Keqiang met with Albanian Foreign Minister Panariti on August 20, 2012
- Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi holds talks with Albanian counterpart on August 21, 2012
- Vice Foreign Minister Xie Hangsheng attended Albania's National Day reception on November 28, 2012

1.2 Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Ministries of Foreign Affairs of China and Bosnia and Herzegovina Hold Vice Foreign Minister-Level Consultation (2011-09-06)
- Premier Wen Jiabao, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina Exchange Congratulatory Messages on 15th Anniversary of Diplomatic Ties (2010-04-03)

1.3 Bulgaria

- Zhang Dejiang Holds Talks with National Assembly Speaker Mihail Mikov of Bulgaria (2013-12-16)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with National Coordinator of Bulgaria for China-CEE Cooperation Georgi Peychinov (2013-11-06)
- President Xi Jinping Appoints New Ambassadors (2013-09-26)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Attends Bulgaria's National Day Reception Held by the Bulgarian Embassy in China (2013-03-01)
- Premier Wen Jiabao Meets with Foreign Leaders Attending the Ninth Asia-Europe Meeting (2012-11-05)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with Ivan Stoyanov Sirakov, Permanent Secretary in the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2012-09-07)
- Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying Meets with Bulgarian Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Cholakov (2011-05-19)
- Wen Jiabao Meets with Bulgarian Prime Minister Borissov (2010-09-24)

1.4 Croatia

- Wang Yi Holds Talks with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Vesna Pusić of Croatia (2013-11-06)
- Zhang Gaoli Meets with Croatian First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Vesna Pusić (2013-11-06)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Vesna Pusić of Croatia (2013-11-06)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with Ambassadors of Croatia and Malta to China (2013-07-17)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Attends Reception Celebrating Croatia's Accession to EU (2013-07-02)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Holds Consultations with Deputy Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia Klisović (2012-09-07)
- Assistant Foreign Minister Le Yucheng Attends Reception on the Croatian National Day (2012-06-27)
- Wu Bangguo Meets with Mayor of Dubrovnik (2012-05-21)
- Wu Bangguo Meets with Croatian President Josipovic (2012-05-20)
- Wu Bangguo Attends the Reception on the 20th Anniversary of China-Croatia Diplomatic Relations and Delivers a Speech (2012-05-20)
- Wu Bangguo Holds Talks with Croatian Parliament Speaker Sprem (2012-05-19)
- Wu Bangguo Meets with Croatian Prime Minister Milanovic (2012-05-19)
- Wu Bangguo Arrives in Zagreb, Kicking off His Visit to Croatia (2012-05-18)
- Chinese, Croatian Leaders Exchange Congratulatory Messages to Mark 20th Anniversary of Diplomatic Ties (2012-05-13)
- Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying Meets with Director General of the Directorate for Extra-European Bilateral Cooperation of Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Javor (2011-10-17)
- Assistant Foreign Minister Cheng Guoping Meets with Croatian Youth Delegation (2010-12-08)
- Yang Jiechi Holds Talks with Croatian Foreign Minister Jandrokovic (2010-03-01)

1.5 Czech Republic

- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Attends China Investment Forum in Czech Republic (2013-11-14)
- Vice Foreign Minister Xie Hangsheng Attends National Day Reception of Czech Embassy in China (2013-10-25)
- Assistant Foreign Minister Le Yucheng Attends Czech National Day Reception (2012-10-26)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with the Delegation of Czech Friendly Personnel (2012-03-27)
- Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying Meets with Czech Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Dub (2011-02-17)

1.6 Estonia

- Yang Jiechi Meets with Serbian, Estonian and Chilean Foreign Ministers (2010-04-30)

1.7 Hungary

- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with Gergely Próhle, Deputy State Secretary of Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2013-01-11)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with Deputy State Secretary of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry Takacs (2012-09-07)
- Vice Premier Li Keqiang Arrives in Brussels for Official Visits to Belgium and the EU Headquarters (2012-05-02)
- Vice Premier Li Keqiang Holds Talks with Hungarian Prime Minister Orban (2012-05-02)
- Vice Premier Li Keqiang Visits the Chinese-Hungarian Bilingual School (2012-05-01)
- Li Keqiang Meets with His Hungarian Counterpart Navracsics (2012-05-01)
- Vice Premier Li Keqiang Meets with Hungarian Acting President Laszlo Kover (2012-05-01)
- Vice Premier Li Keqiang Arrives in Hungary for Official Visit (2012-04-30)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Attends China-Central and Eastern Europe Symposium in Hungary (2012-04-14)
- Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying Meets with Hungarian Minister for National Development Fellegi (2011-11-10)
- Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhijun Meets with the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy State Secretary (2011-10-19)
- Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying Holds Consultations with the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy State Secretary (2011-10-18)
- Wen Jiabao Meets with Hungarian President Schmitt (2011-06-26)
- Premier Wen Jiabao Meets with Hungarian Parliament Speaker Kover (2011-06-26)
- Premier Wen Jiabao Addresses China-Central and Eastern European Countries Economic and Trade Forum (2011-06-26)
- Premier Wen Jiabao Holds Talks with Hungarian Counterpart Orban (2011-06-25)
- Wen Jiabao Holds Exchanges with Young Hungarian Students (2011-06-25)
- Premier Wen Jiabao Arrives in Budapest for Official Visit to Hungary (2011-06-24)
- Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi Meets with Hungarian Prime Minister Orban (2011-06-07)
- Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi Meets with Hungarian Counterpart Martonyi (2011-06-06)
- Hungarian President, Prime Minister Meet with Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo (2011-05-14)
- Dai Bingguo Meets with Hungarian Minister of National Development (2011-04-19)
- Yang Jiechi Meets with Indonesian, Singaporean, Hungarian Counterparts (2010-07-22)
- Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying Meets with Ildiko Lendvai, President of the Hungarian Socialist Party (2010-03-19)

- Vice Foreign Minister Wang Guangya Meets with Hungarian Foreign Minister Balazs (2010-02-02)

1.8 Latvia

- Vice Foreign Minister Xie Hangsheng Condoles with the Victims of Latvian Supermarket Collapse Accident (2013-11-26)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with Latvia's Foreign Ministry State Secretary (2013-09-02)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Visits Latvia for Bilateral Consultations between Foreign Ministries (2013-08-01)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with Chairman of the Latvian-Chinese Friendship Group of the Latvian Parliament (2013-04-25)
- Chinese President Hu Jintao Appoints New Ambassadors (2013-03-13)
- Wen Jiabao Meets with Leaders of Latvia and Other Central, Eastern European Nations (2012-04-26)
- Chinese, Latvian Leaders Exchange Congratulatory Messages on 20th Anniversary of Diplomatic Ties between the Two Countries (2011-09-12)
- Latvian Prime Minister Sends Spring Festival Message to Premier Wen Jiabao (2011-02-04)
- Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying Meets with Andris Berzins, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the Latvian Parliament (2010-04-27)
- Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying Holds Consultations with State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia Teikmanis (2010-03-18)

1.9 Lithuania

- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with Delegation of Lithuania-China Friendship Group of Lithuanian Parliament (2013-10-23)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with Vice Foreign Minister Rolandas Kriščiūnas of Lithuania (2013-07-12)
- Assistant Foreign Minister Zhang Ming Meets with Lithuania-China MP Group Delegation (2012-05-22)
- Wen Jiabao Meets with Leaders of Lithuania and Other Central, Eastern European Nations (2012-04-27)
- Chinese, Lithuanian Leaders Exchange Congratulatory Messages on 20th Anniversary of Diplomatic Ties (2011-09-14)
- Wen Jiabao and His Lithuanian Counterpart Exchange Congratulatory Messages on 20th Anniversary of Diplomatic Ties (2011-09-14)
- Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying Meets with Former Lithuanian President Paksas (2010-04-13)

1.10 FYR Macedonia

- President Xi Jinping Meets with President Gjorge Ivanov of Macedonia, Stressing to Push for More Substantive Outcomes of China-Macedonia and China-CEE Cooperation (2013-10-21)
- Premier Li Keqiang Meets with Prime Minister Victor Ponta of Romania and Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski of Macedonia: China Is Willing to Share Development Opportunities with Central and East European Countries (2013-07-02)
- President Xi Jinping Meets with Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski of Macedonia Stressing to Push Forward China-Macedonia Relations for Greater Development (2013-07-02)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with Macedonian Deputy Prime Minister Peshevski (2013-04-24)
- Vice Premier Hui Liangyu Meets with Macedonian President Ivanov (2012-03-29)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Extends Condolence over Death of Former Macedonian President Gilgorov (2012-01-06)

1.11 Montenegro

- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Attends Montenegro's National Day Reception (2012-07-16)
- Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu Meets with Montenegrin Prime Minister in Podgorica (2012-03-31)
- China and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro Hold Consultation at the Vice Foreign Ministerial Level (2011-09-08)
- Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying Receives Written Interview of the Montenegro Newspaper The Day (2011-09-08)
- China, Montenegro Hold Reception to Mark the Fifth Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the Two Countries in Beijing (2011-07-14)
- Premier Wen Jiabao and Montenegrin Prime Minister Exchange Congratulatory Messages on 5th Anniversary of Diplomatic Ties (2011-07-06)
- Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying Meets with Mirsad Bibović, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro (2010-10-14)
- Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying Meets with a Delegation of Montenegro's Democratic Party of the Socialists (DPS) (2010-02-08)

1.12 Poland

- Zhang Dejiang Meets with Marshal of Senate of Poland (2013-12-17)
- Wang Yi Meets with Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski of Poland (2013-09-28)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with Former Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak of Poland (2013-09-24)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with Director General of Department of Asia and the Pacific Region of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland (2013-09-16)

- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Economy of Poland Ilona Antoniszyn- Klik (2013-06-26)
- Assistant Foreign Minister Le Yucheng Attends Poland's National Day Reception (2013-05-07)
- Wen Jiabao Visits Auschwitz Concentration Camp (2012-04-28)
- Premier Wen Jiabao Leaves for Home After Visit to Poland (2012-04-28)
- Premier Wen Jiabao Delivers a Televised Speech in Poland (2012-04-28)
- Wen Jiabao Attends China-Central and Eastern Europe Business Forum and Delivers an Important Speech (2012-04-27)
- Premier Wen Jiabao Meets with Polish Parliament Speaker Kopacz and Senate Speaker Borusewicz (2012-04-27)
- Premier Wen Jiabao Meets with Polish President Komorowski (2012-04-26)
- Premier Wen Jiabao Arrives in Warsaw for Official Visit to Poland (2012-04-26)
- Wen Jiabao Holds Talks with Polish Prime Minister Tusk (2012-04-26)
- Hui Liangyu Meets with Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina Bevanda in Sarajevo (2012-04-01)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao and Undersecretary of State at the Polish Foreign Ministry Hold the First Round of China-Poland Strategic Dialogue (2012-03-22)
- Li Keqiang and Polish President Attend the China-Poland Economic Forum and Deliver Speeches (2011-12-22)
- President Hu Jintao Holds Talks with Polish Counterpart (2011-12-20)
- Liu Yandong Meets with Polish President Komorowski (2011-12-19)
- Yang Jiechi Meets with Foreign Ministers of Italy, Poland and Turkey (2011-12-06)
- Political Consultations between the Foreign Ministries of China and Poland Held in Beijing (2011-11-24)
- Yang Jiechi Meets with Polish Prime Minister Tusk (2011-08-06)
- Yang Jiechi Holds Talks with His Polish Counterpart Sikorski (2011-08-06)
- Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi's Written Interview with Polish Press (2011-08-05)
- Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying Meets with Political Director of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2011-05-30)
- Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying Meets with Paweł Wojciechowski, Under-Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland (2010-05-20)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with the Delegation of Consular Consultations from the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2010-05-11)
- President Hu Jintao Sends Condolences to Polish Parliamentary Speaker (2010-04-10)

1.13 Romania

- Assistant Foreign Minister Zheng Zeguang Attends Reception of Romanian National Day (2013-12-02)
- Premier Li Keqiang Meets with President Traian Basescu of Romania, Stressing to Promote China-Romania, China-CEE Cooperation from a Long-Term Perspective to Achieve Mutual Benefit, Win-Win Outcomes and Common Development (2013-11-28)

- Premier Li Keqiang Stresses the Need to Let the Ship of China-Romania Friendship Brave the Wind and Waves and Set Sail on the Sea in His Speech at the Romanian Parliament (2013-11-28)
- When Visiting Huawei Romania, Li Keqiang Stresses to Speed up the Pace of Chinese Enterprises Going Global, Benefit Local Regions and Realize Mutual Benefits and Win-Win Results (2013-11-28)
- Premier Li Keqiang Meets with President Crin Antonescu of the Senate and President Valeriu Zgonea of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania, Stressing to Strengthen Exchanges and Cooperation so as to Pass on the Torch of China-Romania Friendship (2013-11-28)
- Li Keqiang and Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta Jointly Meet the Press, Introducing Achievements of China-CEEC Summit (2013-11-27)
- Li Keqiang and Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta Jointly Meet the Press (2013-11-26)
- When Holding Talks with Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta, Li Keqiang Stresses to Deepen China-Romania Traditional Friendship and Pragmatic Cooperation, and Promote China-CEE Cooperation and China-EU Relations to Achieve Greater Development (2013-11-26)
- Premier Li Keqiang Arrives in Bucharest to Attend China-CEEC Summit and to Pay Official Visit to Romania (2013-11-25)
- Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta Meets with Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao (2013-10-16)
- The Meeting of National Coordinators for China-Central and Eastern Europe Cooperation Is Held in Bucharest, Romania (2013-10-15)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Visits Romania for Political Consultations (2013-10-15)
- President Xi Jinping Meets with Prime Minister Victor Ponta of Romania Stressing to Push for More Outcome of China-Central & Eastern Europe Cooperation (2013-07-02)
- Premier Li Keqiang Meets with Prime Minister Victor Ponta of Romania and Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski of Macedonia: China Is Willing to Share Development Opportunities with Central and East European Countries (2013-07-02)
- Assistant Foreign Minister Le Yucheng Meets with Political Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania (2013-02-05)
- Vice Foreign Minister Xie Hangsheng Attends Romania's National Day Reception (2012-11-29)
- Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi Holds Talks with His Romanian Counterpart Titus Corlatean (2012-10-26)
- Li Keqiang Meets with Romanian Foreign Minister Titus Corlatean (2012-10-26)
- Jia Qinglin Meets with President of the Romanian Court of Accounts Vacaroiu (2012-05-14)
- Premier Wen Jiabao Meets with Leaders of Romania and Other Central, Eastern European Nations (2012-04-27)
- Assistant Foreign Minister Le Yucheng Meets with Romanian Ambassador to China (2012-03-28)
- Wen Jiabao Holds Talks Respectively with Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles and Romanian Prime Minister Boc (2011-08-15)
- President Hu Jintao Meets with Romanian Prime Minister Boc (2011-08-12)
- Yang Jiechi Meets with Romanian Foreign Minister Baconschi (2011-08-11)

- Assistant Foreign Minister Cheng Guoping Meets with Delegation of Romania's Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs (2011-06-27)
- Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhijun Meets with Romanian Guest (2011-02-25)
- Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhijun Meets with Chairperson of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies Korodi (2010-06-09)

1.14 Serbia

- Prime Minister Ivica Dacic of Serbia Meets with Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao (2013-10-13)
- Foreign Minister Ivan Mrkić of Serbia Meets with Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao (2013-10-13)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Attends Reception Held by Serbian Embassy in China to Welcome Serbian President for His Visit to China (2013-08-28)
- NPC Chairman Zhang Dejiang Meets with President Tomislav Nikolic of Serbia (2013-08-26)
- President Xi Jinping Holds Talks with President of the Republic of Serbia Tomislav Nikolic The Heads of State Decided to Deepen Bilateral Strategic Partnership (2013-08-26)
- Premier Li Keqiang Meets with President Tomislav Nikolic of Serbia Stressing to Deepen China-Central & Eastern Europe Cooperation and to Create New Growth Pole for China-Europe Cooperation (2013-08-26)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Holds Consultations with State Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Serbia Vera Mavric (2013-04-20)
- Foreign Minister Wang Yi Meets with State Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Serbia Vera Mavric (2013-04-18)
- Vice President Xi Jinping Meets with Vuk Jeremic, President-elect of the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly and Serbian Foreign Minister (2012-07-17)
- Wu Bangguo Meets with Serbian Parliament Speaker (2011-08-29)
- Xi Jinping Meets with Speaker of the Serbian Parliament (2011-08-26)
- Yang Jiechi Holds Talks with Serbian Counterpart (2011-05-05)
- Yang Jiechi Meets with Serbian President Tadic (2011-05-05)
- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Meets with Serbian Minister of Diaspora Sreckovic (2010-12-14)
- Wen Jiabao Holds Talks with Serbian Prime Minister Cvetkovic (2010-06-25)
- Yang Jiechi Meets with Serbian, Estonian and Chilean Foreign Ministers (2010-04-30)

1.15 Slovakia

- NPC Chairman Zhang Dejiang Pays Official Goodwill Visit to Slovakia (2013-09-22)
- Chinese President Hu Jintao Appoints New Ambassadors (2013-03-13)
- Vice Premier Hui Liangyu Meets with Slovak Prime Minister Fico (2013-02-16)
- Vice Premier Hui Liangyu Meets with Slovak President Gasparovic (2013-02-16)
- Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhijun Visits Slovakia (2010-02-05)

1.16 Slovenia

- Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao Holds Political Consultations with State Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia Igor Senčar (2013-10-11)
- Chinese, Slovenian Leaders Exchange Messages to Mark 20th Anniversary of Diplomatic Ties (2012-05-12)
- Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying Attends Bled Strategic Forum (2011-09-11)
- Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying Meets with Slovenian Foreign Minister Zbogar (2011-09-09)
- Wen Jiabao Holds Talks with Slovenian Prime Minister Pahor (2010-06-23)