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FACT SHEET

The EU-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: Working for You

The EU-China Strategic Partnership, based on our 1985 trade and cooperation agreement, has grown to include a multitude of activities in areas such as creating opportunities for our businesses, international security, environment protection and academic exchange, producing long-term benefits for citizens in both the EU and China.

CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The EU and China are looking forward to the 16th EU-China Summit on 21 November 2013 in Beijing, which will mark the 10th anniversary of EU-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and provide an opportunity to launch new initiatives to take the relationship forward in the next decade.

TRADE, JOBS AND GROWTH

The EU and China enjoy one of the world's biggest trade relationships. The EU is China's biggest trading partner while China is the EU's second biggest after the United States, with trade in goods of €434 billion, and in services of €43 billion in 2012. EU-China trade and investment exchanges have become a major source of wealth, jobs, development and innovation. Both partners share responsibility for taking steps to promote strong, sustainable and balanced growth, and have a mutual interest in continuing to provide prosperity for all.

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The EU and China are also working towards **standards convergence** to facilitate trade. Currently, over 300 European Standards form the basis for Chinese standards and the China-Europe Standardisation Information Platform provides companies with easily accessible, clear and free of charge information on standards and market access for the most important products traded.

Two-way investments for everyone's benefit. The EU share of total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into China is steady around a fifth which makes the EU one of the five top FDI providers to China. However we can do a lot more together here, as this represents only 2.1% of total EU FDI outflows – and the share of the EU in the total FDI outflows from China remains equally low. Investment agreement negotiations between the EU and China will aim to lead to improved investment protection and market access for both sides. There is great scope for growth, leading to more jobs and prosperity for everyone.

Safer products for European consumers: "RAPEX-CHINA" is an information exchange system, part of the EU Rapid Alert System (RAPEX system), through which EU Member States inform Chinese authorities about dangerous non-food consumer products of Chinese origin found on the EU market. Thanks to this system, between 2006 and mid-2013 Chinese authorities investigated 2 405 RAPEX notifications. They have taken action, including export stops, against dangerous products in 1 379 cases where they were able to trace back the products' manufacturer.

MAKING THE WORLD A SAFER PLACE

The EU and China share the common goal of improving international security, including nuclear non-proliferation in the world. They are cooperating on Iran in the framework of the E3+3 format – which the EU chairs – and agree that the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and restart of six party talks is essential to ensure stability in the East Asia region. Such cooperation creates a more secure world for us all.

EU and Chinese maritime vessels are successfully cooperating in fighting piracy. Since 2011, Chinese vessels have escorted World Food Programme vessels in the Gulf of Aden, burden-sharing with the EU. China expressed great appreciation for EUNAVFOR's involvement in the liberation of hostages from a Panamanian cargo ship in 2012. The EU also assisted in freeing Chinese hostages from a Taiwanese-operated ship. In the last two years, piracy off the coast of Somalia has decreased 95% thanks to such international efforts.

China is stepping up its support for peace keeping operations, such as in Mali, where the EU and its Member States are strongly engaged. It is the first time that China – as a UN Security Council Permanent Member – has pledged its military forces for such an operation. Such burden sharing for common causes creates greater confidence between us in security matters.

PEOPLE, EDUCATION AND EXCHANGES

Tourism between the EU and China is booming. By 2020, 100 million Chinese tourists could be on the move every year, many of whom will be drawn to Europe. More and more Europeans also travel to China. There are already 70 direct flights daily between European and Chinese cities. Approximately four million Chinese travelled to Europe in 2011. Tourism is increasingly a source of prosperity and a good way of promoting mutual understanding between the EU and China.

Traffic between the EU and China has grown to six million passengers per year, three times the 2003 figure. The EU and China have much to gain from building on the existing commercial ties in aviation and aerospace. These efforts would then translate into concrete safety, security, cost-efficiency benefits for citizens, contributing also to overall economic growth and healthy international competition. The EU-China Civil Aviation Project has been an important tool to facilitate cooperation. Over five hundred officials and experts have received training through the programme.

Scholarships for European and Chinese students and researchers: EU-China academic exchanges have increased significantly over the last two decades, contributing to job creation, innovation and cultural cross-fertilisation between Europe and China. The Erasmus Mundus and Marie Curie programmes will continue to provide scholarships to Chinese students and professors to study and teach in the EU. The Chinese side has offered 30 000 scholarships, of which 20 000 will support Chinese students and scholars to study in all EU countries, and 10 000 will support EU students and scholars to study in China. In 2012, some 2 000 Chinese students benefitted from Erasmus Mundus scholarships. The **China-Europe International Business School (CEIBS)** and the **EU-China School of Law** have, for years, successfully trained businessmen and legal experts to promote exchanges between China and Europe. CEIBS has seen over 8 000 MBA and EMBA graduates pass through its doors and has provided management training for over 80 000 executives. The Financial Times has ranked the CEIBS Full-time MBA Programme #15 and its EMBA Programme #7 worldwide.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT

The EU is committed to the **promotion of human rights** around the world and has a regular formal dialogue with China on the subject. We voice our concerns on specific issues in public and private as necessary. The EU Special Representative for Human Rights' visit to China in September 2013 has opened a new high-level channel of communication with China and identified new areas for concrete projects aimed at improving people's lives.

Over the past decades, the EU has provided **a significant financial and technical support to China's development**. China's impressive growth means that the country has now graduated from needing such assistance and the EU is now redirecting its assistance to developing countries more in need. The EU is committed to enhancing **its cooperation with China to address the challenges of sustainable development, disaster management and assistance around the world**.

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The new emphasis given by the Chinese government to environment protection and the transition to a low-carbon economy have created new opportunities to develop the EU-China cooperation to respond **to environmental and climate change challenges at the domestic and global level**. China aims at reducing CO2 emissions per unit of GDP by 40-45% from 2005 levels by 2020.

Securing our energy needs is vital to our respective economies, and international cooperation is essential to bring positive outcomes to the citizens. Through our bilateral cooperation, we aim at reducing our energy consumption while securing sustainable energy supply.

The new EU-China Urbanisation Partnership will address the economic, social and environmental challenges of urbanisation. 250 million Chinese citizens are expected to move into cities in the coming decades. The expected benefits from EU-Chinese cooperation include lower resource demand from Chinese cities, higher quality of life for their citizens and new business opportunities for EU companies. The EU and China are developing city pairings and other mechanisms to foster exchange of experiences and joint projects in a broad scope of sectors, from low-energy buildings to clean mobility, from integrated water and waste treatments to social inclusion, from sound local infrastructure to efficient public services. We are working together on urban air quality and road safety to improve the lives of millions of Chinese and European citizens in China.

Cooperation Plan in Agriculture and Rural Development. The EU and China are working together on sustainable rural development, as well as on tackling common challenges such as **food security and climate change**. Citizens will see benefits from research on more environmentally friendly food production, and on dealing with plant and animal diseases. Citizens in China and the EU will also reap the long term benefits of increased scientific cooperation on improving standards to increase food quality, which includes organic agriculture and geographical indications. Importantly, through research cooperation, the plan also links in with the societal challenge of reducing disparities between rural and urban areas.

Research and Development in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. EURATOM and China are working together on the implementation of the ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) project focusing on the future production of fusion energy. Moreover, nuclear safety is a top priority for both sides.