

DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE EU STRATEGY TOWARDS CHINA

Organised by the Institute of the European Union for Security Studies (EUISS)

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China represents a great opportunity, but also a challenge, for the EU. Devising the right approach towards Beijing is possibly one of the greatest tasks currently facing EU policy makers in Brussels, particularly given the distinctive characteristics of the Union's international actorness and the persistent habit of the 27 member states to pursue their own respective national interests. The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty has equipped EU institutions in Brussels with additional competencies, while also creating new machinery – the European External Action Service (EEAS) – specifically tasked with increasing the coherence, and effectiveness, of EU foreign policy. But have these steps successfully been translated into a more strategic EU approach *vis-à-vis* China?

Strategy is traditionally defined as the capacity to bring together all of the elements required for the preservation, and enhancement, of a nation's long-term interests. In the case of the EU, this refers to the capacity of the Union to advance its interests and values abroad with the aim of preserving, and enhancing, the socio-economic development and welfare of its citizens. In this context, it is worthy of note that China is poised to become the EU's most important commercial partner, while simultaneously being a serious challenger in trade and competitor for resources. In addition, the distinctive nature of the Chinese regime and its growing assertiveness provides a political and security challenge for the EU, calling into question Europe's autonomous position and role in the so-called 'Pacific century'. Given the magnitude of the challenges ahead, it is essential that the EU be able to devise a coherent and comprehensive strategic approach towards Beijing so as to better promote the Union's interests and values and avoid internal division over China.

To contribute to this formation of policy, the EUISS is organising a high-level seminar in Paris on 11-12 October 2012 in order to assess and examine EU policy towards China in the following fields: trade, investment, the euro/finance, environment/resources, politics and security. How to further linkages in these fields will be discussed, as well as whether an EU strategic approach is emerging, and if so, in which fields of policy. By bringing together recognised experts in these topics and EU officials in charge of relations with China, this seminar seeks to enrich the strategic debate in Europe, and deliver concrete policy suggestions for use by EU policy makers.

AGENDA

Day 1

- 13h30-14h00 Welcoming coffee
- 14h00-14h15 Introduction:
Nicola Casarini - Research Fellow, EUISS, Paris
- 14h15-15h30 **Session 1 – The euro and global economic governance**
Chair: **Patrick Allard** - Consultant, Direction de la Prospective, French MFA, Paris
Paper giver: **Miguel Otero-Iglesias** - Assistant Professor, ESSCA, Paris
Discussant: **Raul de Luzenberger** - Head of Sector, Countries of the G-20, International Division, DG ECFIN, Brussels
- 15h30 – 15h45 Coffee break
- 15h45- 17h00 **Session 2 – Trade**
Chair: **Jonas Condomines Beraud** - Head of Unit, Asia, DG External Relations, European Parliament, Brussels
Paper giver: **Jonathan Holslag** - Head of Research, BICCS, Brussels
Discussant: **Antonio Parenti** - Deputy Head of Unit, Far East, DG Trade, Brussels
- 17h00 – 18h15 **Session 3 – Investments**
Chair : **Gaia Danese** – Counsellor, Policy Planning Unit, Italian MFA, Rome
Paper giver: **Jonas Parello-Plasner** - Senior Policy Fellow, ECFR, London
Discussant: **Felipe Palacios Sureda** - Investment Affairs Manager, Investment Unit, DG Trade, Brussels
- 19h30 Conference dinner (*La Gitane , 53 bis avenue de la Motte Picquet, 75015 Paris*)

Day 2

08h30 – 09h00 Morning coffee

09h00 – 10h15 **Session 4 – Environment and resources**

Chair: **Bartosz Cielezynsky** - Policy Officer for China, DG Environment, Brussels

Paper giver: **Bernice Lee** - Research Director, Chatham House, London

Discussant: **Magnus Gislev** - Policy officer, Int. affairs, DG Environment, Brussels

10h15 – 10h30 Coffee break

10h30 – 11h45 **Session 5 - Defence and security**

Chair: **May-Britt Stumbaum** - Head of Research, Free University of Berlin

Paper giver: **Frans-Paul van der Putten** - Senior Research Fellow, Clingendael, The Hague

Discussant: **Thilo Botzenhardt** - Head, Asia Section, EU INTCEN, EEAS, Brussels

11h45 – 13h00 **Session 6 – Politics and strategy**

Chair: **Arnaud d'Andurain** - Direction de la Prospective, French MFA, Paris

Paper giver: **François Godement** - Senior Policy Fellow, ECFR, London

Discussant: **Rebecca Fabrizi** – Head of Division (China), EEAS, Brussels

13h00 – 14h15 Lunch

14h15 – 15h30 **Session 7 – The regional context**

Chair: **Fraser Cameron** - Director, EU-Asia Centre, Brussels

Paper giver: **Axel Berkofsky** - Senior Associate Research Fellow, ISPI, Milan

Discussant: **Michael Reiterer** - Senior Adviser, Asia Pacific, EEAS, Brussels

15h30– 16h00 Closing remarks:

Chair: **Nicola Casarini** - Research Fellow, EUISS, Paris

Rebecca Fabrizi – Head of Division (China), EEAS, Brussels