

# Positioning for a More United Europe: Assessing EU-China Relations

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The European Commission affirms its resolve that this Union works for all Europeans and that we build on our successes, learn from our failures, and continue to strive to better the lives of our citizens. We are committed to ensuring that this organization's destiny is to lead across Europe and beyond while pursuing policies that create lasting peace and prosperity. In a time of fractured alliances, rising nationalism, and demographic changes, we pledge to protect the rules-based international order, strengthen democratic reforms, and adopt policies that meet the hopes and dreams of our citizens. During this summit, we intend to better define our bloc's relationship with China that simultaneously acknowledges the latter's political and economic rise without compromising our need for an assertive and multifaceted policy approach on relevant issues. **To address the broad range of policy matters that demand our attention, the following stipulations are proffered for collective consideration:**

## PREAMBLE

**WHEREAS** the European Union (EU) has consistently sought to deepen integration among member states and declare our shared commitment to promoting democratic principles, the following should be taken into account:

- 1) That we are a broad, diverse community historically divided by conflict and misgivings for centuries, now dedicated to jointly overcoming strategic challenges.
- 2) That the EU is an institution that stands for human freedom, democratic principles, the rule of law, and the upholding of fundamental rights.
- 3) That closer integration between member states will strengthen our shared values and create greater benefits for our citizens.
- 4) That this bloc will continue to build economic, political, and social partnerships that enhance Europeans' standard of living and reinforce the EU's global influence.
- 5) That we adopt policies that position Europe to withstand future economic or political crises through sound economic reforms, responsible foreign policies, and technological cooperation.

## EU-China Partnership

### EU-China Bilateral Relations, Human Rights, and Climate Change

**WHEREAS** the EU and China are linked by an enduring relationship and both sides reaffirm their commitment to deepening their partnership for peace, growth, and reform by comprehensively implementing the initiatives outlined in the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation. However, member states recognize that Beijing's rapid economic growth and willingness to use its political influence to expand its global presence and pursue its wide-ranging ambitions must also be accompanied by commensurate increases in its responsibilities for upholding the rules-based international order, implementing greater trade reciprocity, improving the openness of its financial system, and better protecting human rights.

**WHEREAS** the 2016 Strategy on China remains the basis of our strategic partnership with China, reflecting a more assertive approach that ensures that the bilateral relationship is balanced and mutually beneficial. Since China is also an economic competitor that continues to steal economic technology and promote alternative models of governance, member states must employ a pragmatic and flexible approach to China-specific policies that are scalable and contingent on the specific issues under discussion.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the EU and China pledge to adopt a new cooperation agenda beyond 2020 by next year's bilateral summit and both sides welcome our recently held High-Level Strategic Dialogue. Both parties are committed to establishing a political mechanism to continuously monitor the progress of negotiations and to report to leaders by the end of the year on the progress made.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the EU notes the need to maintain the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue – whose 37th round occurred in April – to discuss a wide range of human rights-related issues in China and in the EU. While we recognize that China has made progress on some economic and social rights, the EU is alarmed by Chinese authorities' crackdown against civil and political rights, including the detention of a significant number of human rights defenders and lawyers. We are deeply dismayed by Chinese actions that erode freedom of religion and call on all allegations of mistreatment of minorities to be promptly investigated.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the EU considers the establishment of political re-education camps in Xinjiang as an extremely concerning development. Though Beijing's offer of supervised visits to the region by select journalists and foreign officials is welcomed, we reiterate our expectations that international human rights observers, including UN officials, also receive unrestricted access to these facilities.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the EU plans to intensify cooperation with China on the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Montreal Protocol as part of the global response to the threat of climate change. We note that carbon pricing and fossil fuel subsidy reform are

important actions to fight climate change and plan to step up efforts to jointly tackle other environmental issues, such as biodiversity loss and maritime pollution. We welcome further cooperation on this issue and anticipate additional progress at the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Action Summits in September 2019.

## **Security and Foreign Policy**

**WHEREAS** deepening our joint commitment to pursuing policies that contribute to lasting international peace and stability is a priority. We jointly call on our allies and partners around the world to resolve regional disputes and conflicts through meaningful negotiations and without taking escalatory actions that violate our shared obligations under international law.

**WHEREAS** China has the opportunity to play an important role in addressing regional security challenges. For example, both the EU and China view continuing full and effective implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran as a foundational step to advancing non-proliferation globally and a significant diplomatic achievement endorsed unanimously by the UN Security Council in its Resolution 2231. We reaffirm our willingness to preserve the economic benefits for Iran enshrined in the nuclear deal based on the International Atomic Energy Agency's confirmation of Iran's continued adherence to its commitments in 14 consecutive reports. However, recent reports about Iran's decision to step up uranium enrichment are deeply concerning and we call on Tehran to reverse this decision and to refrain from further measures that would undermine the nuclear agreement.

**WHEREAS** foreign investment in strategic sectors, acquisitions of critical assets, technologies and infrastructure in the EU, and involvement in supply of critical equipment poses a risk to European national security. In particular, member states must continue to carefully examine how to best secure critical infrastructure, such as 5G networks, and exchange information and coordinate on impact assessment studies on security risks and on certification for 5G equipment and internet-connected devices. This is crucial as 5G network development is a key European priority given they will provide the backbone of our societies and economies, connecting billions of devices and systems.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that this body, along with our Chinese counterparts, support the ongoing dialogue to achieve a political solution between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States. In doing so, we reaffirm our call for the complete implementation of all relevant UN Security Council resolutions by all parties.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that to preserve strategic stability and fully address a range of regional crises, the EU calls on China to deliver on its existing international commitments and to better coordinate the use of state instruments to achieve critical outcomes. For example, continued cooperation from both parties will help address the evolving peace process in Afghanistan, bring full implementation of the Minsk agreements in Ukraine, and bring a peaceful way out of the Venezuelan political crisis.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that member states staunchly follow the new regulation establishing a framework for screening foreign direct investment. Entering into force this April and fully in effect by November 2020 at the latest, this stipulation will create a powerful mechanism for cooperation and information-sharing to raise awareness of foreign investment in European critical assets, technologies, and infrastructure, as well as identifying threats posed by any specific acquisitions. During the intervening period until the start of the regulation's application, we urge all EU members to make any necessary changes to their national domestic practices and legislation to ensure compliance with the Commission.