



parleu2018bg.bg  
Parliamentary Dimension  
Bulgarian Presidency of the Council  
of the European Union

## **Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)** **15-17 February 2018, Sofia**

### **Background information**

#### **Workshop: EU-China relations**

The overall policy framework of the European Union towards China is outlined in the Joint Communication 'Elements for a new EU Strategy on China' and the 'EU Strategy on China – Council Conclusions' of 18 July 2016. In addition, the Agreement defining EU-China relations is the 'EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation', jointly signed by the EU and China in 2013, is the highest-level joint document steering the EU-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. As the EU Strategy affirms, EU approach which will be principled, practical and pragmatic, based on a positive agenda of partnership coupled with the constructive management of differences, with an end goal of mutual benefits for both sides in political, economic, trade and investment, social, environmental, and other relations. Reciprocity, a level playing field and fair competition across all areas of co-operation are promoted.

EU and China hold an annual Strategic Dialogue at the level of the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and the State Councillor for Foreign Affairs on the Chinese side. In its foreign policy and security dialogue with China, the EU will continue to encourage China to mobilise its diplomatic and other resources to support international security.

EU-China economic cooperation requires close and regular contact, and is formalised through the following annual dialogues: the High-level Economic and Trade Dialogue, chaired by a Vice President on the EU side and a Vice-Premier on the Chinese side; the Economic and Financial Dialogue between the European Commission and the European Central Bank, on one side, and the Chinese Ministry of Finance, the People's Bank of China and the Chinese financial market regulators, on the other; the Macroeconomic Dialogue between the European Commission and the National Development and Reform Commission of China.

Trade in goods has been the driving force in the EU-China economic relationship. They are two of the most externally-integrated economies in the world. At the 16th EU-China Summit held on 21 November 2013 both sides



parleu2018bg.bg

Parliamentary Dimension  
Bulgarian Presidency of the Council  
of the European Union

announced the launch of negotiations of a comprehensive EU-China Investment Agreement. An EU Sustainability Impact Assessment is being carried out to assess the potential economic, social, environmental, and human rights impact of the agreement.

China is the EU's biggest source of imports and its second-biggest export market. China and Europe trade on average over €1 billion a day.

Cooperation on climate change is a high priority for the EU and China. In 2005 the two sides formed a Climate Change Partnership to provide a high-level framework for cooperation and dialogue on climate change policies, to exchange views on key issues in the international climate change negotiations and encourage low carbon technology development and uptake. China's 13th Five Year Plan sets a clear path towards green development, whilst the EU is working towards green growth under the goals of Europe 2020 and the 7th Environmental Action Programme. Furthermore, the signature of the EU-China Energy Cooperation Roadmap in July 2016 signalled a new step ahead in the long-standing energy cooperation between the European Union and China.

EU and China cooperate in a number of other sectors such as Research and Innovation, Food Safety and Consumer Protection, Information and Communications Technologies, Digital Economy. The EU has provided significant financial and technical support to China as part of its Development Cooperation policy, including through its Partnership Instrument.

Contributing to the 'High Level EU-China People-to-People Dialogue' and the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage, the EU-China Tourism year 2018 was launched on 19 January 2018 at the Doge's Palace in Venice.

The two sides have the opportunity to deepen their cooperation in areas such as trade and investment; infrastructure; energy, the environment and the Paris climate change agreement; science, technology, innovation and industrial cooperation; financial services; people-to-people exchanges; and global governance. In this way, the EU and China can help ensure that global development is stable, strong, balanced and sustainable.