

## EUAP Annual Conference 2015: Distant Neighbours or Active Stakeholders? EU Policy Responses to Challenges in EU-China Relations

### Conference Concept and Agenda

<p><u>Organizers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ European Union Academic Programme Hong Kong (EUAPHK)</li> <li>▪ Department of Government and International Studies (GIS), Hong Kong Baptist University</li> <li>▪ School of Modern Languages and Cultures (SMLC), The University of Hong Kong</li> </ul>	<p><u>Supported by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kathleen Ferrier</li> <li>▪ Netherlands Consulate General in Hong Kong and Macao</li> <li>▪ EU Office to Hong Kong and Macao</li> </ul>	<p><u>Date / Venue:</u>  <b>27-28 November 2015</b>  <b>The University of Hong Kong</b>  <b>Room 4.36 Run Run Shaw Tower</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: blue; font-weight: bold;">Final 1.2</p> </div>
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#### I. Concept

Having celebrated forty years of diplomatic relations in 2015, the EU's relationship with China faces a number of interrelated challenges. Taking place at the conclusion of the first year of the Juncker Commission, this conference seeks to bring together scholars and practitioners to examine and debate choices in key dimensions of the EU's China policy: The objective is to connect recent research insights to policy-relevant debates. The conference will discuss crosscutting issues spanning a *tour d'horizon* of political and economic relations, human rights dialogue, and energy and environmental issues.

Which policy responses should transpire from recent Chinese initiatives with regional and global implications, including a new 'silk route' and the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB)? How can the EU increase the coherence of its policies vis-à-vis China? Which type of impact do shifting power balances and economic preoccupations exert on prospects and objectives of the EU-China Human Rights Diplomacy? Panels will also discuss prominent obstacles in specific areas of cooperation: Uncertainties over the increasing role of Chinese investments in Europe and enduring irritants in the Chinese investment climate for European companies raise the question of the next steps of EU-China commercial relations. Will the pending conclusion of a bilateral investment treaty (BIT) pave the way for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA)? What will be the prospect for EU-China trade and economic relations following increasing tension in recent years, for example, the conflict over solar panels in 2013 and other cases? Finally, following the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation signed in 2013, the fields of energy, security and environment stand out as envisaged avenues of cooperation. How complementary is a European Energy Union with Chinese



approaches to energy security on the road to the 2015 Paris UN climate change conference? What prospects will the EU-China Dialogue on Security and Defence (initiated in 2014) have in light of continuously diverging concepts of international order, the growing assertiveness of Chinese foreign and defence policies as well as the rising tensions in the South and the East China Seas? These are among the major questions in the Sino-European relationship to be addressed in the conference by a broad spectrum of experts and stakeholders.

## II. Agenda

**Friday 27 November**

Morning

### Opening Remarks:

- 09:30-09:50
- Jean-Pierre CABESTAN, Director General, EUAPHK, Head, Department of Government and International Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University
- Derek COLLINS, Dean, Faculty of Arts, The University of Hong Kong
- Vincent PIKET, Head of the EU Office to Hong Kong and Macao

### Session 1: Learning From and Building on 40 Years: Envisioning the Future of the EU-China Strategic Partnership (moderated by Ting Wai, HKBU)

Keynote speaker:

- 09:50-10:20 Ugo ASTUTO, Acting Managing Director, MD I – Asia and the Pacific, European External Action Service (EEAS)
- 10:20-10:50 Q&A
- 10:50-11:10 Coffee break

Panellists:

- 11:10-11:30 *“Is the Sino-European Strategic Partnership Becoming Strategic Again?”*  
HUANG Jing, Research Fellow, Institute of European Studies, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations
- 11:30-11:50 *“A Relationship of Unequals? The Gradual Erosion of Mutual Usefulness in EU-China Relations”*  
C. Roland VOGT, Assistant Professor, The University of Hong Kong



- 11:50-12:30 Q&A
- 12:30-14:00 Lunch break

## Afternoon

Session 2: The Road Towards a Sino-European Free Trade Agreement - Confronting Frictions in Economic and Investment Relations (co-moderated by Kathleen Ferrier and Martin Chung)

Panel 1: EU-China Trade and Economic Aspects

Keynote speaker:

- 14:00-14:20 Peter Berz, Head of China Unit, DG Trade, European Commission

Panelists:

- 14:20-14:40 *"The EU and China: Redressing an Unequal Relationship"*  
Guy de JONQUIÈRES, Senior Fellow at European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE), Brussels
- 14:40-15:00 *"Two Issues in China-EU Economic Relations"*  
JIANG Shixue, Deputy Director, Institute of European Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
- 15:00-15:20 *"The European Parliament's Actorness in EU-China Trade Relations: the Case of Bilateral Investment Treaty Negotiation"*  
YAN Shaohua, European Studies, The University of Hong Kong
- 15:20-15:50 Break
- 15:50-16:30 Q&A

Panel 2: Prospects of Chinese Investments in Europe

Panelists:

- 16:30-16:50 *"Chinese Inc into Europe"*  
Alain SEPULCHRE, International Consultant and Senior Asia Expert BCG, ex-McKinsey; Hong Kong
- 16:50-17:10 Alessandro PAOLICCHI, Head of Trade Section, European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macau
- 17:10-17:30 *"Rethinking Chinese Investment in the EU – Trend and Prospect"*  
LEUNG Kin Pong, Research Associate, EUAPHK
- 17:30-18:00 Q&A
- 20:00-21:30 Welcome dinner



**Saturday 28 November**

Morning

Session 3: From Distrust Management to Fruitful Cooperation? The Future of EU-China Human Rights Diplomacy (moderated by Joseph Cheng, City University of Hong Kong)

Keynote Speaker:

- 09:30-10:00 Ellis MATHEWS, Head of Division, China, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Mongolia, EEAS

Panellists:

- 10:00-10:20 SHEN Wenwen, Lecturer, School of History, Philosophy, Political Science & International Relations, University of Wellington
- 10:20-10:40 *“From ‘Mission civilisatrice’ to ‘accord intercivilisationel’? Why are the EU and China learning to cooperate on human rights? (1989-2014)”*  
Thomas STIEGLER, European Studies, The University of Hong Kong
- 10:40-11:30 Q&A with discussant: PAN Zhongqi, Professor, School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Fudan University
- 11:30-13:00 Lunch break

Afternoon

Session 4: EU-China Sectorial Cooperation: Security, Energy & Environment – New Challenges and Opportunities (moderated by Krzysztof Sliwinski, HKBU)

Keynote Speakers:

- 13:00-13:20 *“EU-China: Strengthening Cooperation on Shared Planetary Security Challenges”*  
Alexander VERBEEK, Director of the Institute for Planetary Security
- 13:20-13:40 PAN Zhongqi, Professor, School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Fudan University
- 13:40-14:10 Q&A
- 14:10-14:30 Break



**Panellists:**

- 14:30-14:50 *“EU-China Security Cooperation from a European Perspective”*  
Gudrun WACKER, Senior Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs
- 14:50-15:10 Stratos POURZITAKIS, Dept. Government and International Studies, HKBU
- 15:10-15:40 Q&A with discussant: Krzysztof SLIWINSKI, Associate Professor, Dept. Government and International Studies, HKBU

**Closing Remarks:**

- 15:40-16:00 Jean Pierre CABESTAN, HKBU

