

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The EU, China and SDGs: a likely alliance?

Brussels, 7 May 2018

European Economic and Social Committee, JDE 62
Rue Belliard 99, 1040 Brussels

The EU and China are major global economies and key actors in international trade and investment flows. Both China and the EU are also committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and sustainability has entered the mainstream of government policymaking, including on trade and investment. As a result sustainability and the SDGs are not just a policy issue, but are increasingly a practical business question for companies operating between the EU and China.

The conference will include panels on the impact of SDGs on trade and investment, energy and climate. Speakers will focus on the EU and China and the prospects of a partnership, especially the role of business, in meeting sustainability goals embodied in the SDGs.

PROGRAMME

Monday, 7 May 2018

Venue: European Economic and Social Committee, Rue Belliard 99, 1000 Brussels
Room JDE 62

9:30-10:00 **Registration and welcome coffee**

10:00-11:00 **Opening of the conference**

Welcome speech

- Ms. Tellervo KYLA-HARAKKA-RUONALA, Vice-President of the SDO, EESC

Keynote speeches

- Mr ZHANG Ming, Chinese Ambassador to the European Union
- Mr Jyrki KATAINEN, Vice President of the European Commission

11:00-12:00 **PANEL 1: SDGs, the EU and China: What is the Role of Trade and Investment?**

International trade and investment are central to the global economy and to the delivery of the SDGs. The panel will consider their impact on SDGs in the EU, China and globally. Does trade and investment promote or conflict with the SDGs? What are the roles of governments, business or other actors? And what is the role of the SDGs in the EU-China investment agreement?

Moderator: Dr Pierre GRÖNING, Director Advocacy, amfori

Speakers:

- Mr Pierre AMILHAT, Director for Asia, Central Asia, Middle East/Gulf and Pacific, DG DEVCO
- Mr XU Zhengbing, Economic and Commercial Counsellor of Chinese Mission to the EU
- Mr Bernard DEWIT, Chairman of Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce
- Mr Renato ANTONINI, Partner, Jones Day

12:00-13:00 **PANEL 2: Climate Change and Energy Sustainability: Can the EU and China build a partnership after the Paris Agreement?**

Moderator: Prof Jing MEN, Ballet Latour Chair of EU-China Relations and Director of EU-China Research Centre, EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies Department, College of Europe

Climate change and energy sustainability are two of the greatest global sustainability challenges that impact the SDGs. The panel will consider how the EU and China can overcome these challenges. In light of the Paris Agreement, is there a possible EU-China partnership to lead on climate change? What role can European and Chinese business play in promoting climate and energy sustainability?

Speakers:

- Mr Christian EWERT, Director General, amfori
- Dr Duncan FREEMAN, Research Fellow of EU-China Research Centre, EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies Department, College of Europe
- Mr YIN Bo, Deputy Chief Representative of Europe Office Global Energy, Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization
- Ms Imke LUEBBEKE, Head of Unit, EU Climate and Energy Policy, World Wildlife Fund European Policy Office,(TBC)
- Mr Mathias CLAEYS BOUUAERT, Network Outreach Officer, Climate Action Network Europe (TBC)



13:00-14:00 Networking Lunch (will be served outside the conference room)