

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

THE EU-CHINA DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES



11 OCTOBER 2019 | EESC - JDE62 @ BRUSSELS

Digital connectivity, the digital economy and cybersecurity have all been recent and growing policy issues between the European Union and China. In both Europe and China, businesses and governments are determined to invest heavily in advanced technologies such as HPC, 5G, AI and robotics, and to unlock their potential for economic and social benefits. The ICT sector and the broader digital economy thus are strategic priorities for both the EU and China and play an expanding role in their bilateral relations, arguably being an area of both cooperation and competition. Beijing and Brussels are increasingly relying on each other to make their digital economies grow, and joint development strategies can give them an edge in exploiting the full potential of advanced digital technologies. On the other hand, a number of economic, political and even ethical issues do not merely hinder further cooperation, but threaten to make "systemic rivalry" expand to the digital sector. This international conference brings together a wide range of top-level international academics, practitioners and policymakers, to explore where EU and Chinese strategic priorities stand in this sector and to propose a development path for a digital connectivity that advances mutual interests.

Organised by



EU-CHINA Research Centre
EU INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY STUDIES
BAILLET LATOUR FUND

In partnership with



Comité économique et social européen
European Economic and Social Committee

Conference venue: EESC, JDE62, rue Belliard 99, 1040 Brussels

PROGRAMME

9:00 **Registration**

9:30 **Opening of the conference**

Opening greetings and introduction

Prof. Dr. Jing MEN, Baillet Latour Chair of EU-China Relations and Director of EU-China Research Centre, EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies Department, College of Europe

Welcome speech

Sir Graham WATSON, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee; former Member of the European Parliament (1994-2014) and Leader of the Parliament's Liberal Democratic Group (2002-09)

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

9:45 *Asad BEG*, Adviser to Ambassador at Large for Connectivity, European External Action Service (EEAS)

10:00 *Weiyi XIAN*, Minister Counsellor, Chinese Mission to the European Union, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC

10:15 **Coffee break and group photo** (*for conference speakers*)

PANEL 1: Digital connectivity and security

Chair: *Dr. Thorsten JELINEK*, Director and Senior fellow, Taihe Institute

Speakers:

Abraham LIU, Chief Representative to the EU institutions and Vice President European region, Huawei

Dr. Lorenzo PUPILLO, Associate Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Cybersecurity, CEPs Initiative

Prof. Dr. Junhua ZHANG, Senior associate, European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS)

12:00 **Lunch** (*will be served outside the conference room*)

13:30 **PANEL 2: European and Chinese approaches to digital transformation**

Chair: *Prof. Dr. Jing MEN*

The centrality of the technological revolution in the construction of EU-China political-economic relation; a constructivist approach

Francesca GHIRETTI, Ph.D. candidate, King's College of London

Cyber Cooperation in EU-China relations: understanding the importance of the Chinese Narrative

Dr. Silvia MENEGAZZI., LUISS "Guido Carli" university

EU political discussion of Chinese "security threats": insights from EP Resolution 2019/2575

Michele CASADEI, Research Assistant, Baillet Latour Chair of European Union – China Relations, College of Europe

Personal scoring: what role do state actors play? A comparative analysis of the European and Chinese approaches

Louis GEOFFROY-TERRY, LL.M., University of Milan

15:00 **Coffee break**

15:15 **PANEL 3: Regulatory Challenges and Policy Implementation**

Chair: *Dr. Andrea RENDA*, Digital Innovation Chair in the European Economic Studies Department at the College of Europe & Senior Research Fellow and Head of Global Governance, Regulation, Innovation & Digital Economy, CEPS

Prospects for AI ethics and governance

Dr. Thorsten JELINEK, Director and Senior fellow, Taihe Institute

Contours of an Effective Competition Policy: Promoting Europe 'as a' Digital Champion (and 'not' European champions!)

Dr. Kalpana TYAGI, Post-doc, Center for Legal Informatics, Department of Law, University of Aarhus

Digitalization Economy Strategy and Its Influence on EU-China relations

Xinghui ZHANG, Founder and CEO, Xinliu Group

GDPR in EU-China relations - A case of evolving EU actorness in cyber?

Annika LINCK, Ph.D. candidate, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

16:45 **Closing remarks**

Prof. Dr. Jing MEN