



“The Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”

Words of Welcome

by

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Hamburg
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A New Level of Cooperation

Due to the joint efforts of both China and Germany, the first Hamburg Summit was a great success. Those attending felt that strengthening communication and understanding between both sides is essential, and the summit should be a bridge to a new level of Sino-European cooperation. I was pleased to learn that preparations for the second Hamburg Summit in autumn 2006 are already underway. I hope that the summit will continue to improve as it unfolds in the future.

Communication and understanding is essential

Historically, Sino-European relationships have never been more active nor yielded greater achievements than at present. The European Union is China's largest trading partner, and China is Europe's second largest. In many areas, such as of politics, culture, science and technology, cooperation continues to grow. We are all very pleased about this development. Currently Chinese society is stable, there is well sustained economic growth, and every effort is being made to ensure that we establish a wealthy and happy society. The European Union is also striving to grow and play a greater role in the international arena. Both China and the European Union seek to maintain world peace and are major powers in the encouragement of shared development. The development of Sino-European relations not only satisfies the trends towards globalisation and global multi-polarity, but also ensures shared benefits for both sides. We are therefore extremely confident about the future of Sino-European relations. Since the 18th century, when commercial links with Chinese coastal cities commenced, the beautiful port city of Hamburg has been a commercial window and the hub of the trade between China and Germany. It is our hope that by hosting the Sino-European Summit Hamburg will continue to play a major role in the development of Chinese-German relations.