



“The Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”

Closing Remarks

by

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Ladies and Gentlemen,
Please be so kind to take your seats!
Thank you!

Prof. Xu Kuangdi,
Mr. Liu Haiyan,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you all to the last Keynote Speech Session of the “Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe“ 2010.

After many fruitful discussions that we all enjoyed this morning and yesterday, it is time now to wrap up the panel sessions and point out their major results.

Afterwards, we will hear the opinions of some of the most outspoken advocates of Sino-European cooperation.

We are looking forward to the speeches of Mr Gerhard Schröder, Former Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Mr Hans-Ulrich Klose, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the German Bundestag.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When we started to plan this conference right after the end of the last “Hamburg Summit” in 2008, our aim for the fourth “Hamburg Summit” was to strengthen the European and international attendance. We wanted the “Summit” to live up to its name: “China meets Europe”!

Looking back, we can definitely say that we reached our aim:

Approximately 400 decision makers from more than 15 countries have gathered in our Chamber of Commerce to discuss a variety of current political and economic issues.

We managed to keep up the quality of this conference and even raised it in many aspects.

Once again we managed to assemble the elite of Sino-European relations here in Hamburg, Europe’s capital for business with China.

Yesterday and today we had the opportunity to listen to some of the most prominent politicians, entrepreneurs and academics involved in Sino-European affairs.

We discussed almost every important aspect of Sino-European relations and I think it is fair to say:

We learned a lot from each other, about each other and - most importantly - in dialogue with one another.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

What did we learn from this year's conference talks?

First:

The global economic crisis has changed the perception of China's role in the world. What has been heralded for years, now is a reality; China has become one of the world's most powerful nations!

The People's Republic is on its way to take over global responsibility, and the European Union should welcome and support this development.

Because only a strong China can assure a strong world economy and lead to a peaceful and stable world nation.

It is important that the European Union should view the People's Republic as a strategic partner and give impulses in order to forge a beneficial relationship of equals.

And we should jointly do our utmost to promote multilateral cooperation leading to a fair, just, and rule-based international system.

An international forum like the WTO should be used to solve current problems like currency questions.

Yesterday we have heard the speeches of the Vice-Presidents of the European Central Bank, Mr Constancio, and the People's Bank of China, Mr Li Dongrong. I am confident that with sensible handling all the talk of "currency war" will prove to be false prophecies.

Second:

While China's growing clout becomes more and more obvious, the EU has still not found a coherent voice and policy in dealing with China.

For the time being, there is regrettably no purely European way of doing business with China and of jointly representing our interests vis-à-vis the central government in Beijing.

National interests still are predominant.

This certainly has to change.

The European Union should not only appoint such a European way for its inner coordination but also for its exterior perception. How can we be seen and treated as a Union if we do not behave as one?

Third:

Green technology is the industry of the future.

Chinese as well as European companies are forging ahead in developing products that are both sustainable and profitable. China and Europe should lead the way into a green and sustainable future while at the same time enabling economic growth and lifting more and more Chinese citizens out of poverty.

Fourth:

The Chinese domestic market is as promising as ever. During the recent economic crisis a strong demand from China has helped to cushion the fall for many western countries and was a driving force for revitalised economic growth in Europe, most visibly in Germany. The Chinese domestic market is a promising one, but some recent developments give reason to worry.

Although since its WTO- accession China has done a lot to improve the situation for foreign businesses, recently the situation seems to deteriorate.

China should not resort to discriminating practices when it comes to public procurement and should also revise its policies for knowledge transfers in joint-ventures.

This will not hurt China's economy, in fact it will benefit from the increased trust and confidence that foreign investors will have, which in turn will lead to increased investments and growth in China.

Fifth:

The European Union should support the Chinese government in its endeavours to solve the country's most pressing issues and establish a stable society. All speakers and panellists of "The Hamburg Summit" unanimously pointed out that there still is an enormous need for reforms in the People's Republic:

The rapid urbanisation calls for a new approach to sustainable development in cities. Energy-Efficiency and E-Mobility are part of the solution. But what is also needed is the abolishment of the rural -urban divide. The social inequalities have to be addressed and they have to be addressed soon.

So, Ladies and Gentlemen, there are still a lot of challenges lying ahead. But as long as we keep on fostering the dialogue, I am confident that we will always find ways to solve upcoming problems. This of course is the aim of our "Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe".

Now, I would like to announce the first keynote speaker.

He is one of the most prominent friends of China in Germany and has taken Sino-German relations to a new level - Mr Gerhard Schröder, former Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Ladies and Gentleman,

As you all know, the world has another major power apart from China and the EU, that is the United States of America.

Many believe that the global economic crisis has changed the balance of power in the world in favour of China.

In order to better understand the dynamics shaping our world, I am pleased to announce our next speaker, Mr Hans-Ulrich Klose, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the German Bundestag and Coordinator for German-American Cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the last “Hamburg Summit” the former Chancellor of Germany and honorary chairman of the “Hamburg Summit” Mr Helmut Schmidt said that the third inception of the Summit marked “the beginning of a tradition”.

I think it is fair to say that with this year’s Summit we have continued on the path of a successful tradition and turned the “Hamburg Summit” into a landmark event in fostering Sino-European relations.

I thank you all for being a part of it.