



## **“The Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”**

Words of Welcome

by

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Hamburg Chamber of Commerce

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**Hamburg**  
Chamber of Commerce

Your Excellency Minister Wan Gang,

Prof. Dr. Papastamkos, Vice President of European Parliament,

Minister Schavan,

First Mayor Scholz,

Ambassador Shi Mingde,

Excellencies,

Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps,

Members of the European Parliament, the German Bundestag and the Hamburg Parliament,

Mr. Lu,

Mr. Yao,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce I extend a very hearty welcome to all of you!

It is my outstanding pleasure to welcome His Excellency Mr. Wan Gang, Vice Chairman of the 11th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Minister of Science and Technology.

Excellency Mr. Wan Gang,

Words cannot describe how delighted we are about your participation in our Hamburg Summit!

It fills me with great joy that I am also able to welcome our German Minister of Education and Research, Mrs. Annette Schavan.

Thank you so much, Minister, for representing our Federal government here tonight!

We know that you have become a good friend of Minister Wan Gang, your counterpart in the Chinese government, and I am very happy that you could find the time to meet him here at the "Hamburg Summit", a conference that in fact aims at deepening friendship between China and Europe.

I also extend a very warm and sincere welcome to Prof. Dr. Georgios Papastamkos, Vice President of the European Parliament.

We highly appreciate your presence here tonight giving us the European perspective on China and informing us on the latest endeavours to overcome the crisis in some of the EU member states.

And last but not at all least I like to welcome Mr Lu, Executive Vice Chairman of the China Federation of Industrial Economics (CFIE), and Mr. Yao, Executive Vice Chairman of the China Association of Trade in Services (CATIS) – our two co-hosts -, and their business delegations.

My deep gratitude goes to you, your organisations and especially to your delegates who came all the way from China to attend this conference as speakers and participants.

We had an excellent cooperation in preparing the fifth “Hamburg Summit” during the last months.

Thank you very much for that!

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Two exciting days, full of new contacts, inspiring discussions and valuable insights are lying ahead of us.

This year’s “Hamburg Summit” will be a very special one: As we all know, earlier this month the National Congress of the Communist Party of China took place, paving the way for the new Chinese political leadership and its ideas on how to lead the world’s new economic superpower into the future.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Party Congress has been one of the most important political events of this year, as it not only showcased the new leaders, but also provided indications of the way forward.

China is standing at a threshold: New leaders will take over the helm and the whole world is wondering whether new helms also mean new policies and new strategic approaches.

A lot to talk and to discuss about!

It indeed makes me proud that this year’s “Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe” is the first major Chinese-European convention after the National Congress.

I am sure that this year’s panels and keynotes will attract even more international attention than the statements and results of the previous “Hamburg Summits”.

This is also due to the ongoing debt crisis in some of the EU member states.

China and the whole world are closely looking at us Europeans, on our endeavors to overcome the crisis.

I am convinced, Ladies and Gentlemen, that in the EURO-crisis the worst is over.

Nevertheless, there are numerous challenges that have to be met.

In this respect, I like to thank China that its government has made considerable investments in the International Monetary Fund and the debt instruments issued by individual countries and thus highly contributed to solve the debt crisis here in Europe.

We are living in a deeply inter-connected world: A strong economic growth in China is good for business in Europe, whereas a vibrant and resilient Eurozone is of equal importance to China.

But we cannot deny that crisis in Europe made China an even stronger competitor on the world-market.

The rules of the game will change, and Europe has to react to this.

I am convinced that China and Europe share the same challenges in the coming decades: Both regions have to thrive for sustainable growth and economic resilience.

We share enormous responsibilities in boosting trade, stabilizing our currencies, fighting climate change and establishing a stable environment for our business communities.

The Hamburg Chamber of Commerce firmly believes that we will meet these aims only by further implementing free trade principles and by overcoming trade barriers and all other forms of protectionism.

In this spirit and by once again thanking Ministers Wan Gang and Schavan for their presence here tonight, I have the honour to declare the fifth “Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe” open!

It is now my pleasure to ask our First Mayor Olaf Scholz to come to the stage and deliver his words of welcome on behalf of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

First Mayor Scholz, the floor is yours.