



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

Closing remarks at the Opening Dinner

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,  
dear President Melsheimer,  
Mr. Lu Yaohua,  
Mr. Yao Shenhong,  
Ladies and Gentlemen!

In my capacity as Conference Chairman, I like to thank our tonight's very prominent speakers for their encouraging words, which painted a clear picture of the prospects for the relationship between China and Europe and of the common challenges that are lying ahead of us.

Thank you, First Mayor Scholz, Minister Wan Gang, Minister Schavan and Vice President Papastamkos for your excellent contributions and for your relevant insights from the Chinese, European and German perspectives reflecting on the future of our bilateral relationship.

The aim of the "Hamburg Summit" is to offer a platform for China and Europe in order to exchange experiences and ideas, but also remind each other to truly and faithfully cooperate.

A united partnership between China and Europe is for the benefit of both sides, especially in times of crisis.

The last three decades saw a relatively liberal global environment that undoubtedly contributed to China's rapid economic growth.

Key elements included:

- a stable increase of world trade due to a progressive reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers so called invisible barriers,
- steady growth rates in the world's major markets,
- rising flows of foreign direct investments,
- sharply declining transport costs,
- increased intra-industry trade,
- and the introduction and rapid spread of information and communication technologies.

Due to the global economic crisis in all parts of the world, this environment is in danger to change significantly:

Protectionist ideas and initiatives try globally to rise.

People are tempted to listen to the prophecies of conflict.

In such difficult times mutual trust is of utmost importance!

In order to achieve understanding, one has to know the partner, his values, interests and aims.

Improving understanding by listening to each other and by setting up a network of personal relationships are the most important aims of the "Hamburg Summit" which started 8 years ago.

I am sure, the next two conference days will again fulfil their objectives!

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am looking forward to two exciting conference days full of new insights, interesting discussions and new contacts.

It is a privilege to have so many brilliant speakers from all around Europe and China here at the "Hamburg Summit"!

Tonight was a wonderful start of our conference, with relevant speeches and conversations among friends.

And before that, in the afternoon, a lot of participants had the chance to see some of our Hamburg highlights:

- Minister Wan Gang visited the Airbus production site,
- many of you went to see the construction site of the concert hall "Elbphilharmonie" - a project that receives a lot of attention not only by music enthusiasts from all over the world, but also from our First Mayor who is progressing in putting the project on track,
- others have participated in the tour with a hybrid fuel-cell bus to a hydrogen refuelling station; they experienced Hamburg's leading role in the hydrogen industry,
- and some of you went to the port – the backbone of Hamburg's economy – in order to see some of the most modern container facilities in the world, the HHLA Container Terminal Altenwerder.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now my pleasure to thank you all for having been our guests tonight.

See you tomorrow morning at 8h30 at our main conference hall for our first keynote speeches and panel discussions.

We will now conclude the evening with coffee served in the “Börsensaal”.

Enjoy the rest of the evening and good night!