



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

Words of Welcome

by

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*- Check Against Delivery -*

Hamburg Chamber of Commerce

**November 29, 2012**



**Hamburg**  
Chamber of Commerce

President of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce,

Honourable Minister Wan Gang,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

please allow me to welcome you to Hamburg once again. As many of you know, I had the chance to visit China last year. And I felt it was a privilege: In a metropolis like Shanghai, with a population of 23 million, looking up toward where the rooftops must be, one cannot help but be fascinated by the immense changes people are able to make if they have the dedication and the vision to do so. And the optimism we all need to meet the challenges we face. So, I am very glad to have you here for the fifth "Hamburg Summit".

Ladies and Gentlemen,

If Germany has a cold – people say – then, one by one, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and our other European neighbours will soon start sneezing, too. Something similar is said about the USA. In that case, however, the effects can be more significant, and its neighbours have reason to fear a serious infection.

By no means would we want China to begin coughing – for then the whole world might fall ill. At any rate, this is how it was recently described by a financial analyst. Of course – as I am sure you have guessed – all of this has nothing to do with the flu, but, rather, with the importance of each of these economies and with the relationships between our European economy and that of the world.

We are, of course, faced by the challenge of maintaining the prosperity we have achieved – and at present, this is difficult enough in certain European countries. I am confident that we will be able to meet this challenge. We will meet this challenge because of the new solidarity between the European states.

As always in cases like this one, a Federal Court will decide.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The heart of the metropolitan region of Hamburg beats in its port. 150,000 jobs depend on it, directly or indirectly. It is Europe's second largest port and one of the most modern in the world. It is the gateway to the world overseas, and not only for the metropolitan region, but also for Southern Germany, and for Northern, Central and Eastern Europe. For China and its neighbours, it is the gateway to Europe. Through its port, Hamburg has become known abroad as the German centre of excellence in foreign trade, the centre that ensures worldwide connections for German industry.

And this is why the deepening of the navigation channel of the Elbe is so important to us.

The project was planned very carefully and conscientiously. Protection of the Elbe as a precious natural environment was by no means neglected. To the contrary, extensive ecological compensation measures will minimise possible negative effects.

This was also the view of the European Commission. To start with the deepening we need the decision of a Federal Court. We expect it soon.

Today I can announce to you that the Hamburg Port Authority and the port service providers have put together a package of additional special allowances for 2013.

To begin with, plans are in place to improve traffic management on the Elbe and in the port, including additional personnel. This important measure is intended to make arrivals and departures easier for especially large ships. The Hamburg Port Authority will also provide incentives in the form of harbour dues with targeted discounts. The ULCS discounts for ships over 360 or 390 meters in length will help ship owners. And a new discount on transshipment containers will be introduced in 2013. Furthermore, especially environmentally friendly ships will enjoy even greater discounts, and the planned increase in harbour dues will also be postponed. Finally, we are trying to move the Federal Government to put a cap on pilotage charges for the approach channel.

Then there are the Hamburg handling companies and terminal operators, who have always worked in an extremely competitive environment. They have always adapted to it successfully and in line with the needs of the market, and this will not change in the current situation. The port companies have indicated that they will support the Hamburg Port Authority measures as much as they can.

This and other details can be seen in Hamburg's "ULCS Welcome Initiative," which – by the way – will soon very beautifully show the arrival of the world's largest container ship in Hamburg.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A good life also means – and also presupposes – good work, qualified work. The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg is a large German city that offers such conditions. This also has to do with the powerful economic clusters situated in this city.

Hamburg is the world's third largest site for the aerospace industry. It is also a Europe-wide powerful location for green technologies, from wind energy to hydrogen technology. This year, we already intend to begin construction of an "Innovation Campus for Green Technologies."

We have much to talk about in regard to many of these topics, as they involve sectors which will also need to be developed as priority matters in the People's Republic of China.

Close relationships exist between Germany and China in all key economic and industrial sectors. For example, Airbus has been manufacturing the A 320 in its Tianjin facility since 2008. Cooperation in science and education, here particularly in the training of skilled workers, is also a focus of our collaboration.

I would like to mention two such collaborations in particular. As mandated by the German-Chinese intergovernmental consultations of 2011, HySolutions GmbH has initiated a project with the City of Shenzhen as well as the China Automotive

Technology & Research Center. The project centres around an exchange in the electro mobility sector.

The focus is not so much on the concrete testing of vehicles, but more on the relationships that exist between electromobility and urban and transport development. Partners in this joint research project, in addition to companies like Hamburg Airport, the Technischer Überwachungs-Verein Süd (Technical Inspection Association) and Siemens, are, particularly, the universities. In its initial phase, the project will be supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport and Innovation of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and, following this, by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development.

On its initiative, a Letter of Intent on the subject of “Green Shipping” was signed with the Transport Ministry of the People’s Republic of China in April 2012: on the reduction of ships’ emissions during their time in port through the development of onshore power links.

We take the “Green Shipping Line” pilot project very seriously indeed. Hamburg is very interested in working with China and taking a leading role in the development of a demonstration project for emission reduction in container ships through onshore power supply. We are in constructive talks with the Federal Government, the port management, and the terminal operators.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yesterday evening I mentioned a Chinese proverb that involves roots and branches. I would like to close with a similar quote: “If the ancestors plant trees, their descendents can enjoy the shade.” Let us plant many trees at this conference. Autumn is a good season for doing so.

And if these should include a couple of bigger trees, they will provide shade sooner, that not only our descendents will be able to enjoy.

I am looking forward hearing the future-oriented findings that will result from this year’s Hamburg Summit.