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Summary Concluding Session / Outlook 202X

### **Progress through trade – together**

This pandemic has shown how closely interconnected China and Europe are. “We in Hamburg see this particularly in our port, where roughly every third container comes from or goes to China,” Conference Chairman Robert Lorenz-Meyer of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce said at the concluding session of the Digital Hamburg Summit. “We need to engage with China. But we also need to articulate our interests clearly in order to jointly strengthen our relations in a sustainable manner,” he added.

In these unsettled times with the pandemic as well as economic and political challenges like digitisation, decarbonisation, sustainability and geopolitical turbulences, China and Germany have to work together, stated Prof. Dr. Jiang Feng, University Council Chair at Shanghai International Studies University.

“We have a common responsibility to overcome the pandemic as soon as possible,” agreed Dr Mikko Huotari, Executive Director of the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS) in Berlin. He left no doubt that the digital and green transformation requires joint efforts. “That is a huge agenda, where there is lots of potential for cooperation. But we need fair rules that work for everyone,” Huotari added.

When asked about his expectations of the new German government, Jiang stated his wish to replace the old slogan of promoting change through trade by a new version: progress through trade. Jiang also expressed his hope for more stability and continuity in the German-Chinese relationship.