



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

Moderation Opening Dinner

by

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**Check against delivery!**

**I.**

Your Excellency Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang,  
Minister Dr. Steinmeier,  
Commissioner Kovács,  
Madame Xie Qihua,  
Chancellor Schmidt,  
Madame la Ministre Idrac,  
Minister Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi,  
First Mayor von Beust,  
Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my capacity as Conference Chairman, I like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you.

A special word of sincere gratitude and appreciation goes to Madame Xie, Executive Chairwoman of the China Federation of Industrial Economics Presidium, this year's co-host of the "Hamburg Summit", for her kind welcome address.

And I would also like to thank Mr. Ole von Beust, First Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City for his welcome remarks and for actively supporting our "Hamburg Summit".

In times of globalization proceeding at full speed, a good and friendly relationship between China and Europe is of greatest importance for both sides.

In order to build up such a strategic partnership, it is inevitable to respect each other's traditions and feelings.

Dear Minister Dr. Steinmeier,

You have been travelling to China many times and we know very well that your aim is to further intensify the bilateral relations based upon open dialogue and mutual understanding.

I am honored and pleased that you decided to come to Hamburg and to address the audience tonight.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Chinese people for the stunning success of the Olympic Summer Games in August.

The success of the Olympics is a kind of “crown” for the work that had been done up to now: Thanks to the significant improvements in all economic fields, China is now playing a decisive role in the world economy.

We should encourage the Chinese government and the Chinese people to continue the reform course which leads to a more open economy and civil society.

This is the basis for getting Europe and China closer together, which is also the aim of our “Hamburg Summit”.

I now like to ask Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Deputy Chancellor and Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, and – immediately following - His Excellency Zhang Dejiang, Vice Premier of the People’s Republic of China, to speak to us now.

## II.

Honorable Vice Premier Zhang,  
Minister Dr. Steinmeier,

Thank you very much for your encouraging words which painted a clear picture of the prospects for the relationship between China and Europe.

In times of globalization proceeding at full speed, good and friendly ties between our two regions are of greatest importance for both sides.

We wish you all success in building up such a strategic partnership!

### III.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I now have the honour and the pleasure to give the word to our next distinguished guest, Mr. László Kovács, European Commissioner for Taxation and Customs Union, and Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary.

He will present to us the view of the European Commission on the perspectives for the Sino-European partnership.

Dear Commissioner Kovács, the floor is yours!

### IV.

Thank you very much, Commissioner, for your excellent speech.

We highly appreciate the Commission's efforts to further develop the relationship with China. And I would like to add that we are also very grateful to the French government, tonight represented by its Minister for Foreign Trade, Madame Anne-Marie Idrac, for its endeavours to further push the Sino – European relationship throughout their Presidency of the European Union.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The dessert will now be served.

V.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our Opening Dinner is coming to an end now, and  
I sincerely thank all speakers, especially His Excellency Zhang Dejiang, for their excellent  
contributions.

Cordial thanks also go to all our partners and sponsors, especially to our Exclusive Sponsor,  
the HSH Nordbank, as well as to CFIE, the co-host of the “Hamburg Summit”.

Thank you all for having been our guests tonight.

We await you here tomorrow morning, after a good and relaxing sleep, for our discussions.

Now, coffee is served in the “Börsensaal”.