



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

Words of Welcome at the Official Opening of the Conference

by

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## **Check against delivery!**

Mr. President,  
Honorable Mayor of Hamburg,  
Distinguished speakers and guests,

I feel honored to be delivering this short welcome address to the elite of the Chinese and German business communities. I would like to thank and congratulate the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce and the China Federation of Industrial Economics for arranging this event.

In addition, I am happy to be part of this meeting between China and Europe, along with my own delegation of French business representatives.

If you add up France and Germany, you already have more than half of total European trade with China! Although, to be honest, Germany accounts for the largest share. Each of our two countries obviously has specific national interests. But we also share common strategic views. I am here to express these common European views, on behalf of the French Presidency of the European Union.

My first point is to say how impressed all of us have been with the tremendous success of the Olympic Games. I am also confident that the Paralympics will be remembered just as vividly. These events are a magnet for public attention around the world, as well as for foreign investors drawn by China's remarkable growth record and by the gradual opening of the Chinese economy since the country joined the WTO.

My second point is to highlight the key word pronounced yesterday by Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang, which is partnership. The figures for China-EU trade and investment are already impressive and well known.

They reveal that partnership between our economies is already a long story, with successful cooperation in aeronautics, automotive, energy, the environment, food and agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and many other sectors.

We are here together today because we all believe that that story is destined not only to last, but also to become more meaningful and more exciting over the years.

We want that partnership to be sustainable, politically and economically sustainable, both for our business communities and for ordinary people. That means that mutual understanding, trust and fairness should be our common goals, the basis for steady development of our economic relationship.

This Summit will once again allow us to review the wide range of issues involved in economic dialogue between Europe and China: macroeconomics, including exchange rate issues, trade and investment, market access, finance, implementation of a predictable legal framework for business, energy, environment, logistics, research and development, IPR and more.

As the country currently holding the Presidency of the European Union, France is proud to be hosting the next EU-China Summit in Lyon, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. The French employers organization, MEDEF, will also be organizing a business summit, back to back with the official meeting. France intends to put forward the most comprehensive agenda, alongside the official agenda. No important issue should be left out. This is the key to frank, forward-looking dialogue.

Before passing the microphone to the next speakers, I would just like to reiterate my great sympathy for China, especially for the Province of Sichuan. I also wish to stress my admiration for the courage of the people fighting against such terrible natural adversity with the effective support of the Chinese government. France has decided to support the EU-Sichuan Investment and Cooperation Conference, organized by the European Chamber of Commerce in China on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October. I will be attending that event; it offers an ideal opportunity to re-affirm our solidarity and our confidence in the future of Sichuan, a very important province for a good many European companies.