



“The Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”

Closing Remarks

by

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- Check Against Delivery –

Hamburg Chamber of Commerce

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Your Excellency Mr. Liu He,

Thank you so much for your excellent speech and for sharing with us your views on China's economic transition.

Your Excellency Mr. Liu He,

Mrs. Margrethe Vestager,

Dear Minister Scheuer,

First Mayor Dr. Peter Tschentscher,

Distinguished Members of the European and Hamburg Parliament,

Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my capacity as Deputy Conference Chairman I would like to thank His Excellency Liu He, EU-Commissioner Vestager, Minister Scheuer and First Mayor Dr. Tschentscher for their inspiring speeches and for sharing their views on the prospects of the relationship between China and Europe.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the last editions of the "Hamburg Summit" my fellow chairmen all referred to the number "8", which is the lucky number, symbolising good luck, fortune and eternity.

Therefore I will be using once again eight sentences to close our Luncheon and this year's 8th "Hamburg Summit".

First:

Mr. Liu He's presence underlines the importance the Chinese government attaches to our conference, which ranks among the top international dialogue platforms on China and Europe.

Dear Mr. Liu He, we are truly honoured that you chose the "Hamburg Summit" as an occasion for visiting Germany and Hamburg before you will go to the G20 in Buenos Aires!

Second:

The participation of Ms. Margrethe Vestager, European Commissioner for Competition, is a clear sign that Europe is reaching out to China and considers the People's Republic an indispensable part of a rule-based international order.

I also deeply thank our German Minister of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, Andreas Scheuer, who is attending the "Hamburg Summit" for the first time, for underlining that the bilateral German-Chinese economic and political relations are close and more important than ever.

Third:

Our Chinese co-initiator CFIE did a tremendous job in bringing a very big and high-ranking delegation to our 8th "Hamburg Summit".

I want to especially thank Chairman Li Yizhong for once again leading the CFIE delegation.

You are truly a great partner and we highly appreciate your time-tested and deep friendship and support.

Fourth:

For the third time, the "Hamburg Summit" has invited 30 young leaders from Europe and China to participate in the "Young Leaders' Forum" which will take place right after this conference.

I sincerely thank our partner, the OAV German Asia-Pacific Business Association, for jointly organising this Forum with us and for very actively supporting our conference.

Fifth:

I would also like to thank our academic partners, the GIGA Institute of Asian Studies and the Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWI), for supporting us in a tremendous way.

And of course we are very grateful to all our institutional partners, our media partners and our 25 sponsors. Without your substantial support this conference would not have been possible!

Sixth:

At this year's "Hamburg Summit", we welcomed more than 400 participants and 100 journalists.

China literally met Europe during the last two days!

Our conference would be meaningless without all the high-ranking speakers and participants who came from different parts of the world to share their knowledge and insights on EU-China relations with us.

Thank you all for coming!

Seventh:

As a native citizen of Hamburg and defender of free trade, it makes me very proud and happy that our city has again proven to be the best location for an event of the calibre of our “Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”.

Hamburg is a positive example of how European and Chinese businesses can cooperate in order to foster innovation and sustainable growth.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of China’s Reform and Opening. Ever since Deng Xiaoping initiated the “second revolution” at the Third Plenum of the Eleventh Central Committee in 1978, China has made remarkable progress and has become an economic giant with the world’s largest foreign reserves, second-largest GDP, and third-highest levels of foreign direct investment.

Today the world is in the midst of a trade war which will have unintended consequences for all of us.

In this sense, we appreciate, Mr. Vice Premier, your staunch support as defender of free trade in the WTO framework!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last but not least, here comes sentence number eight:

The eighth “Hamburg Summit” was a great success.

I sincerely hope you enjoyed the discussions, gained new insights and good contacts.

We will keep you informed about our plans for the 9th “Hamburg Summit” in 2020, when China and Europe meet again in Hamburg.

In keeping with what the lucky number 8 signifies, I wish you all good luck, strong health and prosperity.

Last but not least, I would like to thank our “Summit-team” for the tremendous work and efforts put into this event.

Before I now officially close the conference, I wish you all a safe journey home – but before leaving, enjoy the dessert buffet and coffee that will be served in the adjacent hall.

Goodbye and Zai Jian (Dsai Dschiän)!