

## 4th Europe China Forum / Shaping a shared future

### European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's special message



The EU-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has expanded significantly since its inception in 2003. The EU is China's biggest trading partner, and China is the EU's second biggest one. Negotiations on an EU-China investment agreement started earlier this year and are expected to further improve the business environment on both sides.

But the EU and China have become partners in a deeper sense than just trade. As key international players, the EU and China share responsibility for contributing to global peace and stability. The first round of the EU-China Dialogue on Defence and Security, which took place recently, should open up new cooperation opportunities.

Ensuring sustainable development for the future is essential. The EU must work hand-in-hand with China on climate change, environmental protection, international development, human rights and social inclusiveness at the domestic and global level. The EU-China Partnership for Sustainable Urbanisation has become an important pillar of our relations and we look forward to developing more projects in that framework. We would like to increase cooperation with China on the rule of law, in line with the outcome of the 4th Plenum, and to do more to develop EU-China transport links.

We also want to build bridges between Europe and China by expanding people-to-people exchanges. The EU wants to see more cultural, student and linguistic interactions, as well as cooperation to promote cultural diversity. Progress on visa and migration cooperation is essential if we are to realise these goals.

The EU and China should celebrate the 40th anniversary of EU-China diplomatic relations next year by implementing the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation with renewed ambition and vigour. I was happy to discuss our future cooperation with President Xi Jinping at the G20 Summit in Brisbane, and wish today's Forum all the best in contributing to the advancement of EU-China relations.

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