



**In Partnership with**



## **2<sup>nd</sup> EU-China Forum: The Road Less Travelled - European Involvement in China's Belt and Road Initiative**

**Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Brussels, Belgium**

**Free Attendance (by invitation from European Chamber, CEPS and EUCBA)**

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been described as everything from the Chinese Marshall Plan to a tool for debt-trap diplomacy. Extensive reporting on the BRI has been done from political, economic, and strategic perspectives, but much less has been written from the business perspective. The European Chamber is publishing a report to fill this critical gap in the discussion and better represent what the BRI means for companies. The report finds that only a small portion of European companies have been able to participate in BRI-related projects, while a slightly broader number have enjoyed positive effects as a result of the BRI such as access to new logistics options and increasing trade flows with recipient countries.

However, the BRI has failed to become the open, transparent and international initiative that it often claims to be as bidding processes are opaque and China's SOEs take the lead, and the bulk of the value, from BRI-related projects. The report also covers concerns about the BRI as China's national champions use it as a platform to push China's standards in critical areas while they also take advantage of state support as they scale-up. This drives the need for alternatives to the BRI to emerge, such as the EU Connectivity Plan, which was announced in September 2018. The BRI needs competition that drives recipient countries to demand better practices from it, and the European Chamber is eager to see Europe step up and provide it.

The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China in partnership with the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) and the EU-China Business Association (EUCBA) are delighted to invite you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU-China Forum, which will encompass a presentation of the findings of the Chamber's newly published report "The Road Less Travelled: European Involvement in China's Belt and Road Initiative" and two panel discussions that will cover the topics of Connectivity and Cooperation and Sustainability. This forum will take place on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at CEPS Office at Place du Congrès 1, 1000 Brussels.

## Agenda

- 8:30am-9:00am Registration and Welcome Coffee
- 9:00am-9:10am Welcome words by Carlo D'Andrea, Vice President, European Union Chamber of Commerce in China
- 9:10am-9:25am Keynote Speech by Joerg Wuttke, President, European Union Chamber of Commerce in China
- 9:25am-9:40am Keynote Speech by Xia Xiang, Business Counsellor of the Chinese mission to the European Union
- 9:40am-9:55am Keynote Speech by Romana Vlahutin, Ambassador at Large for Connectivity at European External Action Service
- 9:55am-10:05am Introduction to Panel 1
- 10:05am-10:55am Panel 1: EU-China Connectivity Cooperation-Competition-Confrontation  
Moderator: Journalist / Business Organization
- Panellists:
- Maria Demertzis, Deputy Director, Bruegel
  - Weinian Hu, Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)
  - Shada Islam, Director of Europe and Geopolitics, Friends of Europe
- 10:55am-11:20am Coffee Break
- 11:20am-11:30am Introduction to Panel 2
- 11:30am-12:20pm Panel 2: Promoting Sustainability in Eurasia  
Moderator: Maurice Fermont, Adviser on International Trade and Investment, BusinessEurope
- Panellists:
- Joerg Wuttke, President, European Union Chamber of Commerce in China and Chief Representative of BASF China
  - Jens Eskelund, Vice President of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China and Senior Director at Maersk China
  - Pierre-Yves Bonnet, Pierre-Yves Bonnet, Group Country Head and Chairman, Société Générale China
- 12:20pm-12:30pm Closing words by Carlo D'Andrea, Vice President, European Union Chamber of Commerce in China

*Views expressed by invited speakers do not necessarily reflect the opinions or position of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China or the Centre for European Policy Studies*

## **How to Register**

To register please contact Ms Laura Alvarez Mendivil at [lamendivil@european-chamber.com.cn](mailto:lamendivil@european-chamber.com.cn) latest by 28<sup>th</sup> January. Before registering please read carefully the Terms and Conditions below.

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- Events have limited seating: to ensure your attendance we encourage you to register and pay in advance. We cannot guarantee entry those that have not pre-registered. We reserve the right to limit the number of tickets that any company books for the event.
- All our events are held in English and follow the Chatham House Rule unless otherwise stated.
- The sharing of presentation materials is at the speaker's discretion.
- If you cannot attend an event that you have registered for, please cancel your registration no later than one business day prior to the event. To cancel you can email Ms Laura Alvarez Mendivil at [lamendivil@european-chamber.com.cn](mailto:lamendivil@european-chamber.com.cn)

### Loss and damage

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