

## International Workshop

### EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES ON CHINA'S NEW SILK ROAD

Brussels, 14-15 September 2015

**Location: European Economic and Social Committee**

Chinese President Xi Jinping in late 2013 announced China's grand development strategy, the Silk Road Economic Belt (One Belt) and the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Maritime Silk Road (One Road), to be pursued in the coming three or four decades. Since then, this strategy has been promoted inside and outside China by the Chinese government, in the form of economic cooperation, trade deals, cultural activities etc. More than one million articles in Chinese have been published in Chinese media, discussing the feasibility, the implementation, the opportunities and the challenges of the strategy. This is accompanied, however, by the lack of consensus among analysts on the objectives, feasibility and potential impact of the initiative.

As China is situated in East Asia, its neighbouring countries are the first to feel the impact of the New Silk Road strategy. But this does not mean that China has not taken any step yet in Europe – the 16+1 mechanism has already witnessed three successive meetings of Heads of Government of China and Central and Eastern European Countries; direct cargo train connections between central China and Europe has been established, 16 cargo fast lanes between Europe and China have been put into operation; Chinese global shipping corporation Cosco has leased half of the Greek port of Piraeus and intended to build the port into "one of the biggest and fastest-growing ports in the Mediterranean".

Most recently, at the 17th EU-China summit meeting on 30 June 2015, officials from both sides addressed the importance to identify synergies between the Juncker Plan and the "One Belt and One Road" (OBOR) Initiative. It is thus time for the Europeans to examine China's New Silk Road strategy to find out what it is, what its major objectives are, and how these objectives are to be realized. Successful or not, this Chinese strategy will affect EU-China relations, not only economically, but also in many other areas.

There are still many open questions regarding the Silk Road initiative, its institutions and instruments. For example, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which is in the process of setting up, has attracted a number of European countries, including the UK, Germany, France and Italy. The questions are what the relationship is between the AIIB and the New Silk Road Strategy, and what will the role of the Silk Road Fund be vis-à-vis the AIIB. Furthermore, the New Silk Road will pass through about 60 countries but it is unclear how China can manage the security and political risks in these countries.

There are other key questions related to China's strategy: What is the nature of this strategy? To what degree and in which ways will European countries be affected by China's new strategy, both directly and indirectly? Will it be beneficial to them? What are the challenges and what are the opportunities? What actions should the EU take? How

should the EU be involved so as to be able to coordinate Member States' responses to the Chinese strategy?

In order to explore answers to these questions, the EU-China Research Centre and the InBev-Baillet Latour Chair of EU-China Relations, based in the Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies at the College of Europe, will organise an international workshop on "European Perspectives on China's New Silk Road". The event will take place in Brussels on 14-15 September 2015 and it will be hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee. The idea is to bring together EU policymakers from the Commission, the EEAS and the EP, as well as think tanks and academics to have an in-depth discussion and to generate European perspectives on China's New Silk Road strategy.

## PROGRAMME

### Monday, 14 September 2015

*Location* European Economic and Social Committee, Van Maerlant Building, 2 rue Van Maerlant, 1040 BRUSSELS

*Room* VM1

Registration 13:00-13:30

13:30 Welcome speech by Jing MEN, College of Europe

13:35-13:45 Opening speech by Mr Luis PLANAS PUCHADES, Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee

13:45-13:55 Opening speech by Mr Jo LEINEN, Chairmen of the China Delegation, European Parliament

13:55-14:10 Briefing on China's Silk Road by Minister Lirong ZHANG, Chinese Mission to the EU

14:10-15:40 **Panel One: The New Silk Road - a domestic or an international Chinese project?**

Chair: Björn CONRAD, Associate Vice President for Research at MERICS, Berlin (tbc)

- Paul TIMMERS, Director, Digital Society, Trust & Security, Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology, European Commission

- Agatha KRATZ, Policy Fellow, Asia & China Programme, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)
- Alice EKMAN, Research Fellow, IFRI, Associate Analyst, EUISS
- Haiyan ZHANG, Research Affiliate, EU-China Research Centre

15:40-15:55 Coffee break

15:55-17:30 **Panel Two: One Road One Belt: China connects Asia and Europe - the Central Asian land bridge and the Indian Ocean waterfront**

Chair: Michael REITERER, Senior Advisor of European External Action Service

- Sandro SANTAMATO, Head of Unit, Directorate General for Mobility and Transport, Unit D1 – Maritime transport and logistics, European Commission, Brussels
- James REILLY, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney and Jean Monnet Fellow, European University Institute (EUI) in Florence
- Alexander VAN DE PUTTE, Board Member, National Investment Corporation of the National Bank of Kazakhstan and Professor of Strategic Foresight, IE Business School, Madrid
- Frank GEERKENS, Port Ambassador, Antwerp Port Authority

## **Tuesday, 15 September 2015**

*Location* European Economic and Social Committee, Van Maerlant Building, 2 rue Van Maerlant, 1040 BRUSSELS

*Room* VM3 (2nd floor, Van Maerlant Building)

*Registration* 8:30-9:00

9:00-10:30 **Panel Three: The security and political challenge for China's New Silk Road strategy**

Chair: David FOUQUET, Senior Associate at the European Institute for Asian Studies

- Raffaello PANTUCCI, Director of International Security Studies at Royal United Services Institute
- Fraser CAMERON, Director at EU Asia Centre

- Bruno HELLENDORFF, Group for Research and Information on Peace and security (GRIP)
- Alica KIZEKOVA, Adviser to the Speaker, Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of the Czech Republic

10:30-10:45 Coffee break

10:45-12:15 **Panel Four: The AIIB and the Silk Road Fund**

- Annika MELANDER, Advisor to the Director for International Affairs, DG ECFIN at the European Commission
- Zhi LIU, Director of Peking University – Lincoln Institute Center for Urban Development and Land Policy
- Gerhard STAHL, Peking University HSBC Business School, College of Europe

12:15-14:00 Lunch

*Location* European Economic and Social Committee, Van Maerlant Building, 2 rue Van Maerlant, 1040 BRUSSELS

*Room* VM1

14:00-15:30 **Panel Five: The impact on EU-China economic and trade relations**

Chair: Pierre DEFRAIGNE, Director of the Madariaga Centre, College of Europe, Bruges

- Michal MAKOCKI, Directorate General for Trade, European Commission
- Alessia AMIGHINI, Department of Economics and Business (DiSEI), Università del Piemonte Orientale
- Roberto BENDINI, Principal Administrator at the Policy Department, Directorate General External Policies of the European Parliament
- Marco SANFILIPPO, University of Antwerp and Italian Institute of International Affairs

15:30-15:45 Coffee break

15:45-17:15 **Panel Six: The perspectives of the member states**

Chair: Speaker of the EEAS (tbc)

- Ramon PACHECO PARDO, Senior Lecturer at King's College London and Co-director of the London Asia Pacific Centre for Social Science
- Giorgio PRODI, Director of Studies of MBA China/Far East and Europe Business Relations, Bologna Business School and member of the Scientific Committee of Osservatorio Asia
- Pablo GANDARA, Project Coordinator for GIZ within the framework of EU Regional Policy Dialogues
- Marcin KACZMARSKI, Head of the China-EU Programme, Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW)
- Gabriela RADU, Policy Programs Officer, Aspen Institute Romania, Bucharest