

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

For the *EU-China Observer* Issue #2.18

The 40th anniversary of China's Reform Policy: Opportunities and Challenges for EU-China Relations

Submission deadline: 18 May 2018

The **Baillet Latour Chair of European Union-China Relations** and the **EU-China Research Centre** at the **College of Europe** (Bruges) are calling for contributions to the second issue of the *EU-China Observer* of 2018. The issue will focus on **The 40th anniversary of China's Reform Policy: Opportunities and Challenges for EU-China Relations**

The year 2018 marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up (launched by Deng Xiaoping in 1978), which created China's 'economic miracle'. In line with this 'reformist' occurrence, this year has already brought about significant changes with regard to China's political fundamentals. The 13th National People's Congress, held in March, formalised the first amendments to the Constitution since 2004, featuring not only the headline-worthy removal of term limits for both the President and the Vice-President, but also the inclusion of 'Xi Jinping thought' and of a stronger official recognition of Communist Party leadership into the charter. Formal changes are seen by Xi's circle as crucial to spearhead China's much-needed wide-ranging structural reforms, designed to improve the supply side of the economy but also to address financial and environmental issues, which are expected to gear up in 2018.

Internationally, China's steps to deepen and broaden its reforms go hand in hand with Beijing's more proactive engagement and search for a more 'managerial' role in regional and global affairs. In this context, some observers have noted that China's emphasis on balanced relationships and "more equality" between powers is "good news for the EU". In recent years, China-EU relations have been increasingly marred by significant stumbling blocks, most notably in the field of trade and investment, and it is therefore not surprising that policymakers and experts in Brussels are quite eager to see whether and how the aforementioned internal developments in China are going to affect the bilateral ties.

In this light, the forthcoming issue of this journal would like to explore the extent to which China's latest reforms are likely to impact EU-China relations. Will they foster stronger bilateral cooperation, or will Xi's stronger grip on the state instead complicate an already challenging context for gap-bridging?

Contributions for the next issue of the *EU-China Observer* may cover – but are not limited to – the following topics:

- China's reforms and their historical impact on China-EU relations (since the establishment of official ties);
- China's reforms in the field of trade and investment: challenges and opportunities for the EU and EU-China relations;
- China-EU political and security relations: the impact of China's reforms and greater global projection;
- China's reforms and EU-China relations in the field of climate change, energy, and social policies;
- China's reforms and their impact on other fields of EU-China cooperation (e.g. people-to-people, science...);

Please send your contributions to EUCO@coleurope.eu by **18 May 2018**. For any questions related to the *EU-China Observer*, please do not hesitate to contact us via the e-mail address mentioned above.

Previous issues, and further information are available here: <http://www.coleurope.eu/euco>