



Conference on the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation

European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels

May 2019 (date to be confirmed by the EESC)

Call for papers

The Baillet Latour Chair of EU-China Relations and the EU-China Research Centre, College of Europe, together with the European Economic and Social Committee, are calling for paper submissions for an international conference on the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation, to be held in Brussels on May XX, 2019.

Relations between the EU and China have developed fast since diplomatic ties were established in 1975. In particular, the creation of the EU-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2003 has deepened and broadened cooperation in a wide range of areas, and the EU and China have become highly interdependent as a result.

In an effort to improve and give greater formalisation to the partnership, in 2013 Brussels and Beijing launched the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation, an ambitious goal-setting document covering a wide range of initiatives in the fields of 'peace and security', 'prosperity', 'sustainable development', and 'people-to-people exchanges'.

Six years later, as the 2020 'deadline' approaches, EU-China relations have been witnessing significant change. Global politics have become fraught with greater hostility to multilateralism and globalisation, in part due to the isolationist course undertaken by the new US administration and to the rise of nationalism and populism in many developed and developing countries. In this context, the EU and China could be facing an unprecedented opportunity to 'answer the call' for new approaches to global governance, and to step up their cooperation and bolster their co-leadership in many of the domains included in the 2020 Agenda. However, their bilateral ties remain marred by hurdles, especially in the field of trade, which certainly complicate the achievement of many of the goals set in the Agenda.

If Brussels and Beijing are to truly upgrade their strategic partnership to the global level, it is therefore of paramount importance that they conduct a serious stocktaking exercise, aimed at assessing the scale and scope of both progress and problems in the diverse domains of their bilateral relations, as spelled out in the 2020 Agenda.

Against this background, this international conference, jointly organised by the Baillet Latour Chair of EU-China Relations and the EU-China Research Centre, College of Europe, together with the European Economic and Social Committee, intends to bring together a wide range of top-level academics, practitioners and policymakers, from both the EU and China, to promote dialogue and discussions on all facets of the 2020 Agenda.



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As this will be a 'stocktaking' conference, paper givers are expected to focus on one or more areas of bilateral cooperation mentioned in the 2020 Agenda and to examine recent developments in said areas, particularly during the 2013-2019 timeframe. Forward-looking elements are welcome, but priority should be given to analysing the status quo. Furthermore, one separate panel will focus on mutual perceptions between the EU and China.

Proposals of **max. 300 words**, along with a short bio and contact details, should be submitted to Duncan Freeman (duncan.freeman@coleurope.eu) by **January 20, 2019**. Authors of accepted papers will be contacted shortly after. Travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the organisers.