



CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

For the *EU-China Observer* Issue #1.18

THE EU AND CHINA IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER: PARTNER OR COMPETITORS?

Submission deadline: 31 January 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 first issue of the *EU-China Observer* of 2018. The issue will focus on **the EU and China in a changing global order: partners or competitors?**

Over the past few years, scholars and policymakers have been stressing the 'fluid' nature of the global order, which has been gradually shifting away from its post-Cold War US-centric nature towards a more dynamic and interdependent context characterised by new actors and issues. Given the seemingly more withdrawn approach to multilateralism and global governance undertaken by the new US administration led by President Trump, room for emerging actors to have more sway in shaping the global stage appears to be on the rise.

Among said actors, the EU and China are well-equipped to play a leading role, provided that they succeed in properly setting and managing their strategic priorities. Especially in light of its 2016 Global Strategy, the EU seems to be making important steps to address its long-lasting deficits in terms of coherence and effectiveness as a global actor, but doubts remain about its actual ability to overcome internal frictions to implement consistent external policies.

As for China, since Xi Jinping took power its engagement strategy has become a lot more proactive and assertive. New large-scale initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) attest to Beijing's determination to be recognised not only as a 'responsible stakeholder', but as a global leader in its own right, and the conclusions of the just-ended 19th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party have set this resolve in stone. Nevertheless, China remains a developing country whose continued rise faces immense internal and external challenges, at the economic, political, and environmental levels.

In this light, the forthcoming issue of this journal would like to explore the extent to which the challenges and opportunities faced by the EU and China are likely to encourage stronger bilateral cooperation, or whether they will instead drive the two players apart.

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

- The role of the EU-China strategic partnership in global governance: challenges and opportunities vis-à-vis the changing global order;
- EU-China trade and economic relations: current tensions vs prospects;
- EU-China cooperation and/or competition in global security governance, including non-traditional security fields (energy, environment, cybersecurity etc.);
- The role of connectivity in EU-China relations: the BRI and its global significance;
- Potential new fields of EU-China cooperation

Please send your contributions to EUCO@coleurope.eu by **31 January 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>