

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

For the *EU-China Observer* Issue #1.16

THE ISSUE OF CHINA'S MARKET ECONOMY STATUS IN EU-CHINA RELATIONS

Submission deadline: 15 January 2016

The **Baillet Latour Chair of European Union-China Relations** and the **EU-China Research Centre** are calling for contributions to the first issue of the *EU-China Observer* of 2016. The issue will focus on the topic of China's Market Economy Status (MES) in EU-China relations.

The accession of China to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001 is considered a major landmark for China's integration into the global economy. When China joined the WTO, it was defined as a non-market economy. In the context of WTO law, MES means that domestic prices are based on supply and demand - which, in the case of China, was not yet the case. This is why the accession protocol states that price comparability in determining subsidies and dumping does not need to be established by comparing prices to the domestic market, but by employing a different methodology (e.g. by comparing to prices in other markets). However, the protocol also states that "[i]n any event, the provisions of subparagraph (a)(ii) shall expire 15 years after the date of accession." (see: Accession Of The People's Republic Of China - Decision of 10 November 2001)

The 15-year period will be due by December 2016, and in the meantime, debate began to heat up whether this protocol applies directly to WTO member states and whether this would mean that the EU will have to automatically grant the MES to China. Commissioner Cecilia Malmström argued in an interview with [The Wall Street Journal](#) that "there's no automaticity in that".

With discussions about the MES becoming more prominent this year, we would like to invite researchers and practitioners to examine the issue of China's MES from a legal and economic perspective. What may be the potential impact for the EU of either granting or not granting MES to China? What could be the implications for global economic governance and the role of the WTO if China does not obtain MES status from the EU? As we have witnessed the emergence of new trade blocs and bilateral trade agreements, will the WTO lose importance? Which arguments can be brought forward to support both sides?

Please send your contributions to EUCO@coleurope.eu by 15 January 2016. 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, as well as further information is available here:

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