

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

For the *EU-China Observer* Issue #2.16

EU-CHINA COOPERATION ON SECURITY ISSUES

Submission deadline: 15 April 2016

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 2016. The issue will focus on the topic of *EU-China Cooperation in Security Issues*.

In June 2016, the heads of states and government of the EU member states will present the “*EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy*”. Since the publication of the strategic assessment of the global environment (“*The European Union in a changing global environment*”) by High Representative Federica Mogherini last year in June, the EU institutions together with the EU member states have been working on the global strategy, and have taken into account the input of NGOs, think tanks and research institutes in the formulation and debate of the strategy. The global strategy is divided into several major policy areas tackling both traditional and non-traditional fields of security and adjusting to new challenges notably in the field of digital technology and large scale migration.

In the study of EU-China relations, it is frequently observed that the EU and China do not have any major conflicts of interest. Since there are no joint borders between the two, concerns mainly cover global security stakes and are limited e.g. to the nuclear issue (Iran, maybe North Korea), or joint operations in Africa (anti-piracy joint operations in the Gulf of Aden or in the framework of UN missions e.g. in Mali), or the safety of navigation in the South China Sea. The major security issue between the EU and China is the EU arms embargo against China as a consequence of the Tiananmen protests and subsequent crackdown in 1989. There is little direct military cooperation between the two sides. With the formulation of the new EU Global Strategy, it may be of interest to consider the potential role of EU-China cooperation in global security issues, and to define the role of the strategic partners.

EU-China cooperation and consultation in the field of global security issues mainly takes place either in multilateral fora such as the UN, or - in the case of the Iran nuclear issue – in smaller multi-stakeholder formats. Within the EU framework, the EU-China High Level Strategic Dialogue features regular exchanges on Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia and Latin America as well as disarmament and non-proliferation. During the last summit meeting in June 2015, “*both sides reasserted their commitment to enhancing their consultations and cooperation on foreign and security policy in the framework of the EU-China High Level Strategic Dialogue, continuing regular exchanges on Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia and Latin America as well as disarmament and non-proliferation. They agreed to enhance their exchanges on anti-terrorism at the bilateral and multilateral level.*” A focus from both sides could be cooperation to support peace and security in Africa, which is listed as a “*new area of common interest*” in the joint statement.



The forthcoming issue of the *EU-China Observer* would like to explore the leeway for EU-China engagement and cooperation in security issues. This topic is particularly timely against the background of the formulation of the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy. Moreover, the issue would like to tackle both traditional and non-traditional security, thus taking into consideration the changing global environment.

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

- A field of joint interest? EU-China security cooperation in Africa
- Room for non-traditional security cooperation?
- A way forward for EU-China security cooperation, building on successful examples such as the Iran nuclear deal, anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden
- Potential cooperation to stop current conflicts, e.g. in Syria
- The arms embargo – slowing down cooperation?

Please send your contributions to EUCO@coleurope.eu by **15 April 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, and further information are available here: <http://www.coleurope.eu/EUCO>