



INVITATION TO CONFERENCE

Chinese Views of the EU: Disaggregating Chinese Perceptions of the EU and the Implications for the EU's China Policy

29th-30th October 2011

Courtyard by Marriot Beijing Northeast

No. 101, Jingshun Road, Chaoyang District

Beijing, China

As China grows in global power and influence, it is critically important for the European Union (EU) to forge a close and cooperative relationship with it. Good EU relations are equally important for China, as the EU forms one of its two largest markets. Both sides say they are committed to a comprehensive strategic partnership but EU-China ties have not always been smooth. Too often, the two partners misunderstand each other.

A more effective EU China policy has to be based on a thorough understanding of the image of the EU in Chinese minds and China's behaviour in its interaction with the EU. This conference will present the results of a three-year research project, co-funded by the EU's Seventh Framework Programme, to pursue a comprehensive understanding of how different segments of Chinese society view the EU. It will provide new insights into EU-China relations, and help EU stakeholders develop more effective strategies for achieving productive relations with China.

This is an academic conference aimed at scholars and policy-makers. The project is being conducted by a six-member consortium led by the China Policy Institute of the University of Nottingham and which includes the Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the organiser of this conference, and also Renmin University, Leiden University of the Netherlands, Jacobs University in Bremen, Germany, and the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House in London.

Participation is free of charge but as seating is limited places will be confirmed on a first-come first-served basis. Simultaneous interpretation of the Chinese presentations into English will be provided.

Draft Agenda

DAY ONE

Saturday 29th October

08.30-09.00 Registration

SESSION 1

09.00- 10.30

Opening Ceremony

Chair: Prof. Huang Xiaoyong, Party Secretary, CASS Graduate School

Opening Remarks:

(to be confirmed) Vice President, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Prof. Chris Rudd, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Nottingham

Dr. Philippe Vialatte, representative of the Delegation of the European Union to China

Dr. Simona Ardovino, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

Introduction: the Objectives, Design and Implementation of the Project

Zhengxu Wang, Project Coordinator, 'Chinese Views of the EU', Deputy Director and Senior Research Fellow, China Policy Institute, School of Contemporary Chinese Studies, University of Nottingham

10.30-10.45 Coffee break

SESSION 2

10.45-12.45

Chair: Prof. Ding Yifan, Deputy Director, Institute of World Development, State Council Development Research Centre (to be confirmed)

Discussant: tbc

The Major Policy Issues that Cause Difficulties in the EU-China Relationship

Lisheng Dong, Professor of Politics, Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)

Do the Chinese Masses Share Perceptions with Elites over China-EU Relationships?

Long Sun, Assistant Professor, School of International Studies, Renmin University

The Chinese Business Elite's Perception of the EU

Jianxiong Liu, Lecturer, Institute of Economics, CASS

Panel discussion and Q&A

12.45-14.00 Lunch

SESSION 3

14.00-15.30

Chair: Dr. Wang Lei, Deputy Director General, CASS Bureau for International Exchanges and Cooperation

Discussant: tbc

Chinese Reactions to the EU's Political Criticisms
Yanhong Liu, Lecturer, Graduate School of CASS

Supporting Civil Society in China: Challenges and Opportunities for the EU
Yiyi Lu, Project Manager, Carter Centre and Ying Yu, Research Fellow, School of Contemporary Chinese Studies, University of Nottingham

How does Understanding the EU's Internal Complexities affect Chinese Perceptions of the EU?

Zhengxu Wang, Project Coordinator, 'Chinese Views of the EU' and Deputy Director and Senior Research Fellow, CPI and Bogdan Popescu, PhD candidate, University of Nottingham

Panel discussion and Q&A

15.30-15.45 Coffee break

SESSION 4

15.45-17.15

Chair: Prof. Song Xinning, Jean Monnet Chair of European Studies, Renmin University
Discussant: tbc

Communicating the EU as an Environmental Actor and EU-China Environmental Cooperation
Li Zhang, Research Fellow, School of Contemporary Chinese Studies, University of Nottingham

Chinese Views of the EU: An Analysis of 6 Focus Group Interviews Data
Haihua Tang, Lecturer, Department of Politics, Renmin University, Ma Deyong, Associate Professor of Nankai University and Qi Cao, MA student, Renmin University

The Role of Urban Characteristics in the Construction of Ideas towards the EU in China
Yang Du, PhD candidate, Renmin University

Research on the Countermeasures for Developing a good Sino-EU Cooperative Relationship

Wanming Zhang, Associate Professor, Graduate School of CASS

Panel discussion and Q&A

END OF CONFERENCE DAY ONE

DAY TWO

Sunday 30th October

08.30-09.00 Registration

SESSION 5

09.00-10.30

Chair: Prof. Dong Lisheng, CASS Graduate School

Discussant: tbc

The Determinants and Consequences of Chinese Trust in Europeans

Jan Delhey, Professor of Sociology, Jacobs University Bremen and Timo Graf, Research Associate, Jacobs University Bremen

From Antagonist to Model? – The Function and Place of Europe in Chinese Middle School History Textbooks

Nicola Spakowski, Professor of History, Jacobs University Bremen and Alexander Thies, Research Associate, Jacobs University Bremen

Panel discussion and Q&A

10.30-10.45 Coffee break

SESSION 6

10.45-12.45

Chair: Dr. Mikael Mattlin, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Discussant:

Chinese Affect towards European Culture: symbolic Threat or potential Inspiration?

Christian Welzel, Professor of Political Culture Research, Leuphana University, Stefanie Reher, Research Assistant, Leuphana University and Timo Graf, Research Associate, Jacobs University Bremen

Familiarity Breeds Content: Chinese Views of the World and Other Countries in Comparative Perspective

Philip Everts, Professor of International Relations and Foreign Policy, Leiden University

Media Influence on Public Sentiment towards Europeans and the EU

Daniela Stockmann, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Leiden University

Panel discussion and Q&A

END OF CONFERENCE

Collaborators:



Jacobs University Bremen, Germany



Leiden University, the Netherlands



Renmin University of China, China



Royal Institute of International Affairs, UK