



*European Economic and Social Committee*

**Joint Statement**  
**13th Meeting of the China-EU Round Table**  
**(Chengdu, 18 and 19 November 2013)**

1. The China-EU Round Table held its thirteenth meeting in Chengdu on 18 and 19 November 2013.
2. The Round Table was jointly established by the Chinese Economic and Social Council (CESC) and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in accordance with the Joint Statement of the 9th China-EU Summit, held in Helsinki in 2006.
3. Civil society dialogue at the EU-China Round Table forms part of the EU-China Strategic Partnership and contributes to friendship and mutual understanding between people.
4. At the meeting, delegates from both sides held extensive discussions on a) EU-China investment relations and b) human rights.
5. A tripartite workshop with the Sichuan Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in Chengdu was held on sustainable tourism. The workshop called on the governments to recognise the positive impact of sustainable tourism on local and regional economies, as well as on the improvement of social, cultural and environmental conditions and the urban environment. It also stressed the need for enhanced cooperation between the EU and China on the promotion of sustainable tourism.

**EU-China Investment relations**

6. The Round Table recognises that the EU and China enjoy an important and dynamic trading relationship and welcomes the positive outcome of the 4th High-level Economic and Trade Dialogue. The Round Table looks forward to the opening of China-EU negotiations on a bilateral investment agreement, which would be launched at the EU-China Summit on 21 November and welcomes increased cooperation of trade issues.
7. The Round Table stresses the need for the agreement to bring added value and substantially upgrade EU-China economic relations, increase integration and strengthen the EU-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, as stated in the 2012 EU-China Summit.

8. The Round Table notes that the two-way investment between the EU and China remains at a low level: less than 2% of the EU's FDI goes to China (although this represents about 20% of all FDI in China), and China accounts for less than 0.5% of total FDI in the EU. The Round Table calls for EU and China to investigate thoroughly the causes of underinvestment and promote mutual investment.
9. The Round Table stresses the need to fight against trade and investment protectionism and to solve frictions through dialogues and negotiations.
10. The Round Table believes a China-EU Investment Agreement will promote and facilitate two-way investment, and will enhance EU-China economic cooperation. The Round Table welcomes the negotiations to include issues of common concern such as market access, measures against protectionism and protection of intellectual property rights.
11. The Round Table also sees future investment agreement as offering important and increasing opportunities for Small and Medium size enterprises (SMEs) in both China and the EU and calls for specific programmes to be developed in this area.
12. In addition, the Round Table recognises the need to negotiate an ambitious and modern investment agreement that includes sustainable development provisions taking into account the impact that business operations could have on social and environmental protection, including corporate social responsibility.
13. The Round Table calls on the Chinese and European authorities to hold regular information and consultation with civil society organisations during the negotiation and the implementation of the agreement.

### **Human rights**

14. The Round Table recognises that human rights are universal and interrelated and that both EU and China have a duty to protect and promote human rights. The Round Table recognises that human rights discussions between China and the EU should be based on equality, mutual trust and in compliance with international laws, their constitutions and domestic laws.
15. The Round Table believes diversity is a basic characteristic of human civilization. Due to differences in history background, cultural traditions and development stages, challenges and priorities faced by different countries may vary, in particular among developing countries and developed countries.
16. The Round Table recognises the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue between the governments of China and the EU authorities as a positive form of cooperation, providing an opportunity to review human rights achievements and challenges, and an opportunity to attain higher

standards and better implementation of human rights protection, including the protection of persons belonging to vulnerable groups such as ethnic and other minorities and migrants, through the sharing of knowledge and experience.

17. The Round Table supports the Chinese government in its efforts to further enhance economic, social and cultural rights, improve civil and political rights and guarantee the rights and interests of ethnic minorities, women, children, elderly people and the disabled, including further enhancing poverty reduction, education and health care.
18. The Round Table supports the EU's efforts to further enhance and protect human rights within EU including economic and social rights, especially in the context of economic crisis and rising unemployment, shrinking public spending, and rising xenophobia or racism.
19. The Round Table recognises the need to strengthen the supervision role of the people and civil society in protection for human rights, and considers that effective advances in human rights can be better achieved by broader engagement of civil society organisations.
20. The Round Table considers that EU-China cooperation and experience-sharing in the area of human rights could be of value and benefit to both parties. The Round Table calls for greater civil society involvement in the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue to increase mutual understanding and trust.

**Future work**

21. Both sides agree that the 14th meeting of the China-EU Round Table shall be held in Athens, Greece during the first half of 2014 and shall address the two following topics: 1) climate change and sustainable development and 2) youth and employment.
22. This Joint Statement shall be submitted to the upcoming EU-China Summit.

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