

Deeper China-EU Cooperation for Stronger Global Governance

Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Song Zhe at the
Conference “China, the EU and the Restructuring of Global Governance”

6 May 2010

Respected President Sepi,
Commissioner De Gucht,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Europe. And I find it particularly meaningful to join you on this commemorative occasion to speak about the China-EU relations and global governance.

On 6 May 1975, the Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai received Baron Christopher Soames, former Vice President of the European Commission, in the Beijing Hospital, where the Premier was under medical treatment for advanced cancer. At that meeting, they made the historic decision to establish diplomatic relations between China and the European Economic Community (EEC). Back then during the Cold War, no one, even the most gifted pundits for international relations, could be visionary enough to raise the concept of global governance. Still less were they able to foresee the global and strategic significance of our current relations.

Today, the history of the bipolar world is long gone. In this globalised world of enormous changes where all countries and all peoples share a same destiny, it serves the fundamental interests of us all to strengthen multilateral cooperation and global governance, share development opportunities, and meet challenges through common efforts.

Global governance is a complex undertaking. To make it work, we need to, in the first place, find common ground to coordinate our efforts. And in my view, the following four elements are essential for us to make progress on this path.

First, effective cooperation and coordination. It has become increasingly evident that no country could immune from or effectively meet global problems by acting alone. Only by strengthening global coordination and cooperation could we effectively address the challenges ahead.

Second, a fair share of responsibilities. “It is an objective fact that all things are different from one another”—a quote from Mencius, an Ancient Chinese thinker. Countries have different roles in global governance as they vary in terms of natural endowment and development levels. We should fully respect and appreciate the capacity of sovereign states for a reasonable division of responsibilities.

Third, equal and just rights of participation. It is necessary to ensure developing countries sufficient and effective participation in relevant institutional and systematic arrangements, because many of the global problems we have today cannot be effectively addressed without efforts of the developing countries, which account for a majority of around 200 countries worldwide.

Fourth, the spirit of understanding and inclusiveness. We cannot expect to resolve the complicated global problems overnight. Developed countries should understand the difficulties faced by the developing world, and provide necessary support and assistance in the joint response to climate change and other problems.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

The EU is the forerunner and practitioner of global governance. Your integration process launched more than fifty years ago has pioneered an unprecedented cause for regional integration and globalization. China is an active participant, facilitator and contributor to global governance. On this basis, we advocate for a harmonious world, a better world that can effectively meet global challenges based on such an idea. China is willing to advance this goal through joint efforts with Europe in the following aspects.

First, we should work for a democratic international political architecture based on mutual respect and equal consultation. If you take a look at the major powers in the world today, the similarities China and the EU share in our perspectives on international relations and world order outstripped many others. By working together in the spirit of democracy, amity, coordination, and win-win progress, we could offer the international community necessary political environment and institutional guarantee to promote global governance.

Second, we should cooperate and complement each other for

economic growth, and jointly facilitate an effective global economic governance system while not overlooking the significance of equal representation. There is a huge potential for our cooperation in this system. Our current pressing task is to strengthen cooperation in the G20 and other mechanisms. We need to push for the early transition of the G20 from a crisis management mechanism to a global economic governance system. In addition, we should aim to achieve, through this year's two summits, practical results in stronger macroeconomic policy coordination, international financial institutions reform, tightened financial supervision, and rejection of protectionism.

Third, we should strengthen mutual trust and security cooperation to jointly safeguard world peace and stability. On the strategic level, we both should actively pursue the new security concept of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, and coordination, and we should commit ourselves to peaceful resolution to international disputes through cooperation instead of confrontation. To be specific, to better safeguard our respective interest and that of the international community, we need to increase our communication and coordination on the Iranian nuclear issue, Middle East issue, and other regional and international hotspot issues, and it is necessary for us to deepen our cooperation to address new and nonconventional security challenges like climate change, energy security, and transnational organized crimes.

Fourth, we should jointly promote world prosperity and progress of human civilization by seeking common ground, putting aside differences, and drawing on each other's best practices. Global governance cannot be achieved unless we respect the diversity of different cultures and promote exchanges for common progress. We aspire to such a goal. Leaders from both China and the EU have already identified cross-cultural dialogues and youth exchanges as key areas of future cooperation. In addition to these initiatives, we should also actively advocate in the international community equality, mutual respect, mutual learning, and joint development among all cultures and civilizations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

There is great joy and pride to see what we have achieved over the past thirty-five years on the growth of our relations, yet our shared destiny presents us stronger purpose and greater responsibility. On the day to day basis, we should continue with our mutually beneficial cooperation for the benefit of our two peoples. On the strategic level, it is

imperative for us to actively facilitate global governance and to cooperate with the rest of the international community for a better world. In this connection, I wish to highlight the connotation and spirit of four key words.

First, trust. We should always view, approach, and promote our relations from a strategic height and a long-term perspective, increase mutual understanding and trust, and build a rock-solid political foundation for global governance.

Second, connection. We have many opportunities for closer cooperation in the post crisis era. We should continue to uphold the principles of equality, mutual benefit, cooperation, and win-win progress to further expand and deepen our cooperation in business and others.

Third, coordination. We should make full use of various bilateral and multilateral mechanisms like the G20 to scale communications and coordination on major regional and international issues, build more consensus, and constantly expand converging interests.

Fourth, inclusiveness. As long as we respect each other, treat each other as equals, and reject confrontation and bias, our differences over certain issues will not hold us back in reaching the common goal of a healthy and steady China-EU relations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

Thirty-fives years may just be a fleeting moment in the history of mankind, yet what we have witnessed was an exciting chapter in the 2,000-year long history of China-Europe friendship. Looking back, it is a delight to see that we have not failed our historical mission. Looking ahead, I see without illusion the arduous tasks awaiting. On the road ahead, we need closer cooperation among all countries and greater progress in the China-EU relations as people everywhere in this crowded planet share the same destiny. I firmly believe that with our joint efforts, we can make greater contribution to a global governance system that balances well fairness and efficiency, and together we can create a better future for all.

To conclude, I wish this conference a complete success!

Thank you!