

6th EU-China Business Summit 2010:
“Innovation as a win-win solution for steady growth”
Joint Business Declaration

Brussels, 6 October 2010

1. Under the Patronage of the Presidency of the European Council, the Belgium Government, the European Commission and the Ministry of Commerce of P.R. China, the 6th EU-China Business Summit was held on 6 October in Brussels, Belgium. It was organized by the Federation of Entreprises in Belgium, BUSINESSEUROPE and the China Council for Promotion of International Trade, together with the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China and supported by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EU-China Business Association (EUCBA).
2. Discussing the issue “Innovation as a win-win solution for steady growth”, the Summit brought together political and business leaders from China and the European Union. High-level participants included Wen Jiabao, Premier of China, Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, and Yves Leterme, Prime Minister of Belgium. Business leaders highly appreciated the ongoing dialogue between the EU and China on innovation which already had been high on the agenda during the 5th EU-China Business Summit in 2009 in Nanjing, China.
3. European and Chinese businesses expressed some relief that the world economy has come out of recession. However, they underlined that the recovery was still slow and fragile. Both the European and Chinese authorities should remain vigilant and continue pursuing necessary improvements of business conditions in order to sustain the recovery. They stressed that any return to protectionist measures would be damaging to both the Chinese and European economies.
4. In today’s globalised world, business leaders underlined that leading economies like the EU and China should join forces in order to move the Doha Round towards a successful conclusion. The benchmark for a successful Doha round should be commercially meaningful new market access for all WTO members. Business leaders also took note of China’s recent proposal on joining the WTO Government Procurement Agreement and hope that a mutual acceptable agreement on China’s accession can be reached soon.
5. The 6th EU-China Business Summit focused its discussions on the crucial role played by innovation and creativity for finding solutions to the current crisis and laying the foundations for steady growth. They stressed that in particular a rising population, demographic changes and changing consumption patterns were placing an increasingly heavy strain on our planet. In this context, Chinese and European businesses underlined that human capital formation and the encouragement of capabilities in science, technology and innovation will play a key role for addressing future global challenges. Promoting an exchange of talents between Europe and China would be beneficial, and business leaders underlined the importance of university cooperation in this respect.

6. Businesses from both sides stressed the importance of a favorable investment climate and called upon their leaders to improve investment conditions. They highlighted the positive role governments should play in boosting investor confidence and removing impediments to cross-border investment.
7. Business leaders recommended addressing macro-economic imbalances in order to avoid a repeat of the financial crisis that had thrown the world economy into disarray.
8. European and Chinese businesses stressed that counterfeiting and piracy are a global problem and it therefore would be important that China and the EU cooperate bilaterally and multilaterally.
9. Business leaders deplored the lack of progress at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. They underlined that the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is a key instrument to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. The 6th EU-China Business Summit stressed that a coherent climate policy would also stimulate greater innovation in clean technology and a cleaner environment. They stressed that the EU and China should intensify their cooperation on the development of clean and energy efficient technologies.
10. European and Chinese businesses concluded the 6th EU-China Business Summit by reiterating their strong interest in a close EU-China economic and trade partnership. The EU-China dialogues and bilateral discussions should address bilateral trade and investment issues and foster strategic discussions and cooperation on key economic areas for the EU-China relationship.
11. The 7th EU-China Business Summit will take place in China in 2011.

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