

European and Chinese private sector step up efforts to enhance EU-China economic relations

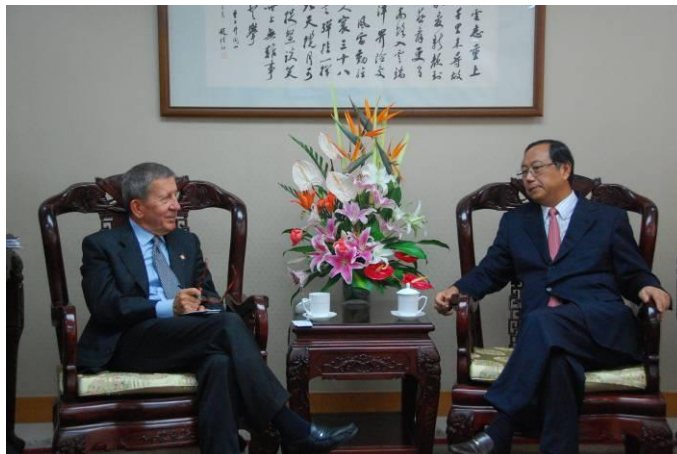
The chairmen of the two major business organisations in Europe and China – Alessandro Barberis, President of EUROCHAMBRES, and Wan Jifei, Chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) – met today to discuss the private sector's role in developing EU-China economic relations.

As the recent visit to China of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton confirmed, quite some challenges persist in EU-China relations. Both EUROCHAMBRES and CCPIT agree that the protection of intellectual property, the lack of fair and open competition and the need to improve the investment climate in China are among businesses' greatest concerns.

"Nevertheless, the European and Chinese economies are complementary and need each other," said Mr Barberis.

EUROCHAMBRES and CCPIT thus discussed possibilities to intensify their cooperation to assure that the interests of companies – especially smaller ones – from both regions are duly reflected in official meetings like the upcoming EU-China Summit in October.

EUROCHAMBRES is already involved in initiatives aimed at supporting European businesses in seizing the opportunities of the Chinese market such as the 'Understanding China' programme, and the forthcoming European SME Centre in China.



Alessandro Barberis, President of EUROCHAMBRES, and Wan Jifei, Chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), meeting on 8 September 2010 in Beijing.

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