



CHINA-EUROPA FORUM

NATURE AND GOVERNANCE OF THE CHINA-EUROPA FORUM

August 26th, 2008

1. The China Europa Forum is a long-term process of dialogue between the Chinese and the European societies, punctuated by biennial meetings held alternately in China and Europa.
2. The Forum was created in 2005 on the joint initiative of the Foundation Henri Fok of Hong Kong and the Charles Leopold Mayer Foundation for Human Progress (fph) of Switzerland. The General Director of the fph, Pierre Calame, has designed the format and ensures the overall coordination of the Forum.
3. The objectives and ethics of the Forum are defined by its Charter attached. The Founders' Committee monitors compliance with the charter. Its functioning is explained in the Forum internal rules.
4. The Forum is a social process. It forms the community - evolving over time- of all those who enhance this dialogue in compliance with the objectives, ethics and common working procedures. The Forum is not an institution but it relies, for its functioning, on a set of institutions.
5. The Forum is an initiative independent from the Chinese or European public institutions, from companies, from political parties. Space of tolerance and dialogue, the Forum is not affiliated to any obedience whether be philosophical, political, religious or trade union. It recognizes the role of all these institutions in the dialogue between Chinese and European societies, pretends in no way to replace them and seek all possible forms and opportunities of complementarity with them.
6. The Forum promotes both the diversity of each society and the unity of the dialogue from society to society in the context of the 21st century, characterized by interdependence between societies throughout the world and their obligation to manage responsibly and as a whole our planet, fragile with limited resources and which balance is in jeopardy.
7. Symbol of diversity, the basic structure of the Forum is the workshop. A workshop combines in China and Europe, people and institutions either from the same socio-professional environment - to deepen their mutual understanding and reflect together on their role and their responsibilities within the society - socioprofessional workshop - or interested in a same issue/theme - thematic workshop.
8. To exist, a workshop must be endorsed and facilitated in China and in Europe. The creation, development and sustainability of each workshop result from autonomous initiatives which comply with the objectives, ethics and working procedures of the Forum. By committing themselves to respect them, these initiatives are granted with the label of the Forum.

9. In principles, each workshop relies in China and Europe, on four pillars: a geographical pillar - usually local authorities - which brings the regional roots, a community pillar - networks of the civil society - which provides human consistency ; an intellectual pillar - universities, research centres - which provides the means for deepening, a media pillar - language schools, the media - which facilitates the dialogue and popularises the results. Workshops which do not meet all of these conditions but are committed to look for them may, however, obtain the Forum label.
10. The unity of the dialogue is provided by:
 - a) **Working procedures common to all workshops.** They are detailed in the appendix and mainly include: a website, a shared agenda, a database of documents, a space for dialogue via the Internet;
 - b) **a stable classification of the workshops in 9 groups** (4 groups of socioprofessional and 5 groups of thematic workshops).
 - c) **the participation of all the workshops to the biennial meetings of the Forum**, according to the format established for each of them.
 - d) **the contribution of the different workshops** to the identification and deepening of the strategic lines, ie major common issues critical to the future of both societies and to their relations
 - e) **the learning pooling** in order to share with all the workshops the innovations introduced by each of them.
11. The Forum coordination is provided by two operational centres, one in Europe, the Foundation China-Europa Forum, the other in China, based in Hong Kong at the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong and whose legal status future remains to be defined. Their role in particular is to develop and sustain the common working procedures; to ensure the inclusive nature of the dialogue by encouraging new initiatives in areas where the dialogue is still insufficient; to allocate the Forum's label to the various workshops and initiatives claiming to represent the Forum; to coordinate the biennial meetings; to facilitate the joint work on strategic lines; to circulate innovations and experiences of the workshops; to disseminate information on the Forum to all stakeholders and to present its spirit and its results to a wide audience.
12. To reflect the inclusive nature of the dialogue between both societies, the participants of the Forum should come, as far as possible, from all the regions of China and Europe, from all socio professional environment. Ensuring that inclusiveness is a common responsibility of all participants.
13. The circle of strategic partners of the Forum is made up of individuals, institutions and networks which, beyond their specific involvement in a workshop or a biennial meeting, undertake to support a comprehensive and lasting peace in the co-financing or contributing to its reputation and its audience. The wished objective is to bring together 10 Chinese and 10 Europeans strategic partners. They meet once a year: in odd years at the end of each biennial meeting to draw the conclusions; and in even years to discuss the format of the next biennial meeting. The strategic partners have a wide discretion of initiative, proposal, recommendation. The strategic partners have a large visibility on the Forum website.
14. Funding for the Forum must be sought from public or private institutions, as diverse as possible. The search for funding, ensuring both the sustainability of the Forum and the compliance with its Charter, is a responsibility of all participants. The operational centers centralize these research efforts. The financiers undertake to respect the the constitutive Charter of the Forum. Each workshop should aim at its financial autonomy. As much as possible costs in China are handled by Chinese institutions and costs in Europe by European institutions. Should it be its wish, any institution financing the Forum will have its name on the Forum website.