



CHINA-EUROPA FORUM

## China-Europa Forum: Objectives, Ethics and Working Procedures

*Opened in 2005 in Nansha, southern China, the China-Europa Forum has become a continuous process of dialogue between Chinese and European societies. This Constituent Charter defines its permanent framework.*

*June 6, 2008, 4 pages*

The Constituent Charter comprises three parts: the first two – objectives and ethics of the forum – constitute its immutable core; the third – its working procedures – can change over time, but on the basis of enduring principles.

### 1. Objectives

- The Forum aims to help Chinese and European societies to become aware of the way in which they have long benefited from sharing their respective thinking and experiences, and to allow them to draw on these in order to undertake changes that are conducive to reaching a truly sustainable form of development;
- to allow the joint efforts of Chinese and European societies and the recognition of a shared heritage and common challenges to contribute to the development of a legitimate, democratic and efficient global community and global governance founded on dialogue amongst major regional entities, with a view to ensuring a harmonious and peaceful development of the world in solidarity;
- and to generate further bilateral, plurilateral or multilateral dialogue amongst regions of the world.

### 2. Ethics

- Dialogue shall reflect mutual respect; it shall extend beyond the traditional forms of diplomacy or economic trade; it shall mobilise, in a transparent and simple form, the best of each society's own experience.
- Insofar as possible, dialogue between the two societies shall call on persons and institutions that play or have played an active role in transforming their own society and have shown their interest in sharing their experiences to guide future developments.
- Analysis of the past shall never be intended to pass judgement on persons or civilisations, but to foster future developments.
- The Forum is not intended to replace the many existing co-operation schemes, each of which has its own *raison d'être*. It aims to become an area for dialogue conducive to the emergence of new co-operation initiatives, which in turn would find their own ways to be implemented without expecting support from the Forum, for which this is not the vocation.
- The Forum shall not aim to build Sino-European coalitions directed against third parties. On the contrary, it expects the sharing it instigates to be useful for other interregional or global discussions as well.

- Participants' contributions within the Forum framework shall be personal and comply with confidentiality rules whenever necessary. The Forum shall not be a channel for expressing institutional points of view: there are other existing means for inter-institutional negotiations. When freedom of speech is incompatible with exercising institutional responsibility, the Forum shall give priority to those players who, thanks to their age in particular, have experience but are not submitted to the obligation of secrecy as per their current responsibilities.
- The Forum shall be pluralistic both in terms of the players invited to participate and of the philosophical, political or religious perspectives they represent.
- The Forum shall place special emphasis on an ethics of diversity and unity. All participants shall be willing to acknowledge their counterparts' specificities. Yet together, they shall seek to manage, sustainably and in solidarity, the challenges faced in common by humanity.

### **3. Working procedures**

The aforementioned objectives and ethics comprise the immutable Constituent Charter of the Forum. Those who invoke it or lay claim to its "label" must comply with them rigorously.

#### **3.1. Constituent Charter guarantors**

In 2008, a group of eight founders, who were behind the first biennial Forum meeting, are the personal guarantors for compliance with this Constituent Charter by all Forum participants or organizers. In case of persistent disagreement amongst Forum participants or protagonists on whether or not there is breach of the Constituent Charter, this group of eight founders shall make the final decision. This group comprises the following members:

- Mr Wu Jianmin, former ambassador, former president of the China Foreign Affairs Institute
- Mr Ho Kinlap, Secretary-General of the Henry Fok Foundation
- Mr Song Xinning, professor of international relations at the People's University of China
- Mr Chen Yan, board member of the Association of Chinese Intellectuals in Europe
- Mr Michel Rocard, former Prime Minister of France and chair of the European delegation at the first Forum in Nansha.
- Mr Georges Berthoin, former cabinet director for Jean Monnet, International Honorary Chairman of the European Movement
- Mr Pierre Calame, director of the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation for the Progress of Humankind (FPH)
- Mr Paul Trần Văn Thịnh, former ambassador to the European Union

In case of resignation or decease of one of the founding members, the Guarantors Board is renewed through co-optation with a two-thirds majority.

#### **3.2. Workshop organisation**

The Forum is a continuous process of dialogue between the Chinese and European societies in all their components and on every subject in which they have a common interest. To reach the twofold objective of diversity and unity, it is organised into socioprofessional and thematic workshops. These workshops rely, in China and in Europe, on persons and institutions who take on the responsibility of

setting them up and facilitating them. Insofar as possible, implementation and development of the workshops is assumed on both sides by four pillars: local communities (geographic pillar), universities and research centres (intellectual pillar), society-based networks (social pillar), linguistic mediators and mediators in charge of communication between the two societies (media pillar).

Every workshop is set up as fundamentally autonomous and benefits in all its actions from the Forum label and logo, expressly provided that it complies with the Constituent Charter's objectives, ethics and working procedures.

### **3.3. Dialogue between the two societies is punctuated by biennial meetings organised alternately in China and in Europe**

Organisation of these biennial meetings is directed by the society of the host country for the meeting, in consultation with the other party. These meetings aim to reinforce the visibility and impact of the dialogue between the two societies, and to draw up common syntheses and perspectives for action. Follow-up to the biennial meetings is the subject of special attention as much in terms of optimising the impact of the preliminary documents and workshop findings, as in terms of following up on the new co-operation perspectives they might engender.

### **3.4. Unity of the Forum is based on using a set of common tools**

These tools, which guarantee the Forum's consistency and long-term projection, are meant to evolve over time. They consist mainly of a common Web site in at least three languages (Chinese, English and French), common databases (persons, documents, methods, etc.), and facilitation and summarisation tools for the discussions and the workshops.

### **3.5. Seeking financial and institutional means for the Forum is everyone's responsibility**

The initiators of the Forum feel they have some responsibility for seeking the means to perpetuate it, but this search is also everyone's responsibility and, in particular, workshop organizers feel they have the responsibility for seeking institutional and financial means for the workshops.

### **3.6. The Forum is an initiative independent of Chinese and European authorities but calls for recognition, respect and support from public institutions**

The Forum is not an emanation of governments, public institutions or private companies. It is the product of numerous independent and convergent initiatives of different sectors of society. It is not defined as in opposition to but as complementary to the indispensable relations amongst public authorities or amongst companies. It offers a free and structured area of convergence for many different dialogue initiatives.

### **3.7. Governance of the Forum is collective and designed to evolve over time**

A 2005 initiative of the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation for the Progress of Humankind, which imagined the Forum, and of the Henry Fok Foundation, which hosted its first biennial meeting, the Forum is called to change, over the years, in the direction of a more collective governance in which all those – people and institutions – committing to supporting it over time will be able to contribute to setting its guidelines and action.

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