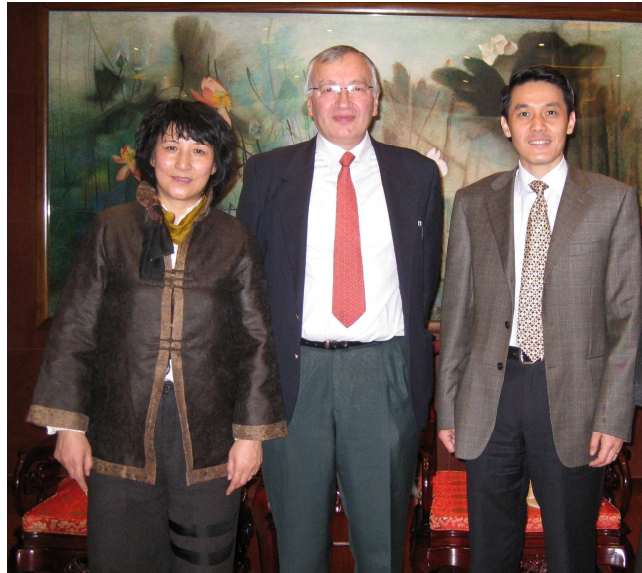


Mr WANG Yajun, Minister Counsellor at the Mission of the People's Republic of China to the European Union, met Mr Pierre Calame and Mrs YU Shuo in Brussels.

Mr Wang gave a warm welcome to Mr Calame and Mrs Yu on the morning of 10 February.

During their meeting, which lasted almost two hours, Mr Calame first presented the situation regarding the organisation of the Forum and the results of the three preparatory meetings held in Europe in 2008. Mr Calame said: "Our aim is not simply to hold a biennial meeting. The characteristic of the Forum is that, before and after the Biennial,



there is continuing dialogue and exchanges between participants. Our objective for the plenary is to deepen collective thinking and to establish a better understanding between China and Europe."

After Mr Calame's presentation, Mr Wang said: "Ambassador Song Zhe and myself give high consideration to the China-Europa Forum. We fully support the Forum. In the context of today's globalisation, China and Europe face a number of challenges - we have common interests to cooperating more and more. A strategic partnership, both stable and healthy, is in the common interests of China and Europe. The initiative of the China-Europa Forum is very useful for strengthening the dialogue between two civilian societies and to improving trust and mutual understanding between China and Europe. The Forum is very important for consolidating China-European relations. The Mission of the People's Republic of China to the EU will support you actively and continuously."

Mr Calame and Mrs Yu explained the method of organising dozens of workshops in China, with Mr Calame saying that in order "to avoid the reading of speeches, we recommend treating subjects in depth and that it is necessary for participants to discuss concrete projects and to exchange views."

Mrs Yu also spoke of the very encouraging and significant support received at a recent meeting with Mr Zhao Qizhen, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the China People's Political Consultative Council (CPPCC).

During their meeting, Mr Wang, Mr Calame and Mrs Yu also exchanged views on how to assure organisation of workshops in Chinese cities. Mr Wang suggested that the Forum establish a long-term strategic partnership in China.