



Dear friends,

Please forgive us for the long silence since the end of the third biennial meeting of the Forum in July 2010, which has completed the first cycle of the Forum. Since then, the many contacts made with you have shown that in spite of all the organisational deficiencies and the shortage of resources in relation to our aims, the large majority of you share the objectives of the Forum and wish to continue with and expand this collective venture. As far as we know, most of the workshops have already given concrete follow up to the 2009 and 2010 meetings.

The second cycle of the Forum needs to be defined and organised with the participation of you all. This is why we want to have a *broad consultation* with all participants on: how to build on the achievements of the workshops and the plenary meetings in Hong Kong (Appendix 1); which institutional framework to ensure its continuance and development (Appendix 2); the format of the future Forum (Appendix 3). Appendix 4 provides a brief overview of the history of the Forum, the objectives it has pursued up until now and the diversity of the workshops organised in 2007, 2009 and 2010. Appendix 5 is the report that was drawn up on the experience of the workshops at the end of the second biennial meeting, in 2007. The synthesis of the media coverage in China can be downloaded at: http://www.china-europa-forum.net/_rsc/press_review-2011.pdf.

Please take a little time to read these and let us have your responses via the following email address: future@china-europa-forum.net. Their synthesis will be presented on the website. We depend very much on your opinions. In parallel, we have appointed Mr. Chen Yan, a member of the Founding Committee, to visit the prime movers of the workshops and ask for their ideas and proposals. He has already organised with Professor Yu Shuo, general coordinator, three meetings in China. He is now continuing this in Europe by holding an initial consultation in Brussels on 22 June, which will be followed by others. I would like to thank you in advance for the welcome you extend him.

Since last autumn we have faced a financial crisis. The subsidies on which we were counting, from a Chinese foundation and from the European Commission, have not materialised. The Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation for Human Progress, FPH, which has until now borne most of the financial burden of the Forum, is no longer in a position to support its development on its own. These growing pains have forced the China Europa Forum Foundation to lay off its workforce and put its operations on hold. Continuity of the Forum is being ensured for the time being in Beijing by Lilly BAI (baili_china@163.com) and Danide LAI (lai_danni@163.com); under the guidance of professor Yu Shuo. This crisis has speeded up the transformation of the Forum into a venture that is run and supported in a collective way.

Since 2005, I have been responsible for creating and running the operational side of the Forum in close collaboration with Professor Yu Shuo. I have done so with enthusiasm and determination, fully convinced of its importance. Having retired at the beginning of 2010, I was keen to attend to the running of the Forum until the biennial meeting last July. I would now like to leave this task to others, in the collective spirit that is to characterise this second cycle. I will of course remain involved in defining its strategy. I would like to tell you on this occasion how much I have enjoyed creating and managing this rather unique venture with you.

In the hope of receiving lots of reactions and proposals in response to this letter, I remain.

Yours sincerely,

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