BUSINESSEUROPE

SPEECH

20 September 2012

EU-CHINA BUSINESS SUMMIT
"COOPERATION TO BOOST CONFIDENCE FOR GROWTH"

20 SEPTEMBER 2012
PALAIS D'EGMONT, BRUSSELS

WELCOME REMARKS BY JÜRGEN R. THUMANN, PRESIDENT OF BUSINESSEUROPE

POLITICAL LEADERS PLENARY SESSION (13H30-14H30)

Dear President Van Rompuy,
Dear President Barroso,
Dear Premier Wen Jiabao,

We are very grateful that you have taken again the time to join our Business Summit. The interaction with you is always the highlight of our annual meeting. Thank you for this great honour and your openness to discuss with the business community the main economic issues of your Summit.

"*Cooperation to boost confidence for growth*" is the theme of this 8th EU-China Business Summit. CEOs from the European Union have looked at different ways to expand this cooperation. And there have been some interesting ideas:

- The EU and China should further support cooperation in industrial innovation by pursuing concrete partnerships projects. We know that a number of them exist already in different areas such sustainable urbanization, water management or agricultural.
- The EU and should launch negotiations for a very comprehensive bilateral investment treaty in order to support further investments both in the EU and in China.

These are just two ideas where we could move ahead on a very concrete basis.

But Ladies and Gentlemen, I do not want to stress too much your patience. Therefore I would like now to invite Mr. Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, to address the participants.

President Van Rompuy, the floor is yours.

Speech by President Van Rompuy

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Thank you, President Van Rompuy, for your very interesting observations and remarks.

Now I would like to invite Premier Wen Jiabao to address our participants.

Speech by Premier Wen Jiabao

Thank you Premier Wen, for your open and clear words.

Finally, I would like to ask the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, to share with us his appreciation of the current EU-China relationship.

Speech by President Barroso

These have been three very interesting speeches, looking at the importance of the EU-China economic relationship from various angles. I thank very much President Barroso, Premier Wen and President Van Rompuy for sharing their views with us.

I would like now to invite Chairman Wan Jifei from the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade to address the participants.

Speech by Chairman Wan Jifei

Ladies and Gentlemen, now I would like say some words of thanks. They are directed to Premier Wen who is attending today his last EU-China Business Summit.

Premier Wen, during your whole tenure you have always been a very strong supporter of a strengthening of EU-China relations. Today China has become the EU's second largest trading partner and its biggest source of imports, whilst the EU is now China's top trade partner. And personally, you have been a very close friend of the EU-China Business Summit. Thank you for your very strong and committed engagement.

On behalf of the Presidents of the four European business associations that are co-organizers of the EU-China Business Summit – BUSINESSEUROPE, European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, EU-China Business Association, and EUROCHAMBRES – I would like to give you this thank you letter as an expression of our friendship with you and your country.

Hand over the joint association letter to Premier Wen.

Dear Prime Minister, I was told that you were born in the Chinese year of the Horse. I must admit that I am not an expert in Chinese astrology, but if I remember correctly the sign of the horse stands for leadership and decision-making.

It is also said that people born the Chinese year of the Horse are very quick-witted. They know what you mean even before you have finished what you were saying. They are on to the thought in your mind even before you've expressed it!

I will try to express this quality in Chinese words, but I beg your pardon already beforehand if my pronunciation is not perfect:

"马到成功" [Ma Dao Cheng Gong]

I was told that it is the description for someone who wins success immediately upon arrival.

Hand over the present together with CCPIT Chairman Wan Jifei to Premier Wen.

Let me conclude, dear Premier, by thanking you again for your continuous efforts to strengthen Chinese-EU relations. From the business community we can promise that we will continue this path of further and even closer cooperation. And personally, we wish you all the best for your future endeavors and most important good health!

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