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ANNUAL LAUNCH SEMINAR: EU BUSINESS IN CHINA: POSITION PAPER 2013/2014

CLOSING REMARKS BY MARIO VIZZOTTO, CHAIRMAN, BUSINESSEUROPE CHINA NETWORK

Dear Commissioner De Gucht, Dear President Cucino, Dear Chairman Philips,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- I thank our colleagues and friends from the EU Chamber of Commerce in China for having come again to BUSINESSEUROPE in order to present to the European business community their annual position paper.
- As always, your position paper is very rich and detailed. It is highly helpful for our daily work as it shows under which framework conditions European companies operate in China. And BUSINESSEUROPE shares the findings from the EUCCC.
- The question is how to address these challenges. And the business community hereby plays an important role. It is therefore very important that we come forward with coordinated or joint messages, from the European business community in China and from the European businesses in the EU.
- Needless to say that we also expect from the European policy-makers at EU level and in the member states to come up with a similar level of coordination. That's sometimes a challenge as we all know...
- In about two months the China-EU Summit will take place, and in parallel the China-EU Business Summit. We hope that this Summit will finally be the starting point for negotiations of an ambitious bilateral EU-China Investment Agreement, covering both pre- and post-investment. Why are we advocating for it, what are our expectations from such an agreement?
 - An EU-China investment treaty would provide significant legal certainty for investors regarding the general rules of fair treatment for Chinese investments in Europe and European investments in China. This would give investors the certainty they need to make sustainable long term investments.
 - An investment treaty would furthermore clarify any limitations to foreign investors – and we, as business, would like to see as few restrictions as possible.
 - Joint ventures would be facilitated by creating very clear rules of the game for settling differences without government interference in business matters.



- An investment treaty would finally provide important guarantees for investors against unjustified expropriations and for fair payment for justified expropriations. While this is rare in the EU and in China today, given the multitude of different governmental levels regulating business in the EU and in China, it is essential to have an over-arching framework of investment protection.
- We know that such negotiations will be challenging, but we also know that will be very beneficial to investors in the EU and in China. And in the end everybody will benefit from it, with creation of new jobs and growth by attracting new investments. So the only advice I can give is to go for these negotiations. BUSINESSEUROPE will strongly support them.
- I thank again Commissioner De Gucht for addressing our meeting today, and our friends from the EU Chamber of Commerce in China for coming over to Brussels.
- I wish everybody a nice afternoon and for those coming from abroad a good and safe trip home.
