

China-Europe forum (4-7 October 2007)

ATELIER WS 44

Security and Defence

I – China vision

China tries to establish a **socialist harmonious society**, in a balanced way. It naturally wants to maintain its sovereignty and territorial integrity. China reinforces its defence capacities in order to fulfil its security needs in remaining independent. The increase of defence expenditures is slow, acceptable and started from very low. Priority is given to information systems. China is not seeking and will not seek sea hegemony. However China needs a navy to protect its reasonable interests. China has no identified enemy but must be ready to face any threat in the future. It wishes in priority to contribute to the security and stability in the Asia Pacific area but also to world peace in actively participating in UN peace keeping as well as in international disaster relief operations.

China is a pacific nation looking for a **limited military power** for its self defence

2 - European Union vision

The European Union is looking for the necessary and sufficient security and defence capabilities in order to:

- provide security to the populations and territories of the member States,
- protect the values of the Western Community (liberty, democracy, rule of law, human rights) ;
- defend European interests in the world (free access to energy resources and raw material, free exchange of goods, ideas, information).

The EU is implementing a strategy of partnership and good neighbourhood, with an active world peace keeping and stability policy (including fight against terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, organized crime) using civil and military means provided by the member States.

3 - Common responsibilities

Considering their history, civilization and economic power, China and the European Union wish to contribute to a better and peaceful world.

They both agree to use force only as the last resort :

to Quote.

Sun Zi : “Think twice before using force”

“Do not open the PANDORE BOX” (European proverb).

When used, armed forces are one instrument (among a broad range of diplomatic economic, legal, rule of law measures) in the hand of the governments and of the international community.

When necessary (no other solution) armed forces should only be engaged on the basis of legitimate and strong mandates, with appropriate capacities. Soldiers should never be placed in situations where they are hostages of the parties in conflict, or powerless witnesses of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Crisis management and arms control are areas of common interest. Thus, for example, China is ready to support European efforts to stop proliferation of nuclear weapons and stabilize Afghanistan.

4 - act together to face common challenges

China and the European Union should :

1 – Take any opportunity to :

- train together, in particular in naval exercises, exchange students in various courses,
- go together on crisis management, peace keeping, disaster relief, humanitarian operations,
- improve interoperability.

2 – Sit around the table to calm any tension, explain respective positions, understand (by dialogue) each-other, on any source of potential crisis.

3 – Go from bilateral relations to China EU relations.

4 - Have a regional approach of bilateral co-operations., in applying the “Clearing House” process.¹

¹ mandated but not regulated by EU

- mandated to participate by “members”
- voluntary : you may take part but don’t have to
- working level is the “engine room” of cooperation
- results must be practical and mutually beneficial.

