

WS15 – Journalists and the media

Session 1

The Chinese vision

- 3 future challenges: - Racing against the clock (being the fastest) - Expressing own ideas freely - Balance between professionals and non professionals in news production.
- Internet is today's number two medium after television.
- The majority of journalists are still today members of the Party, but the trend is changing.
- State-owned media, just like the Party, cover the entire political spectrum.
- The media are still the voice of the public authorities, but they are becoming more and more independent.
- The censure was previously a state of mind, it is now a regulation of individual or collective interest.
- The media are a major driver of the current push for democratisation.
- NICT has favoured the massive demand for individual expression
- The opening to liberal economy places state-owned and private media in competition, which is a sign of dynamism.
- The online press is very lively, but the share of service and leisure related news has increased against general interest, political, social or economic news.
- The relationship between the authorities and the media has become more flexible than 15 years ago.
- There is no charter of journalists' rights and duties, nor press law
- The amount of information produced by non-professionals is on the rise, but it is not checked
- The role of the press has changed : prioritise information and comment it.
- The media now pay greater attention to people's daily lives
- Lately, the press has developed the ability to react collectively to attacks against them
- Today's concern : inform and participate in public debate.

The European questions addressed to Chinese

- Are the Chinese media still the sole spokespeople of the authorities?
- What role do the media play in the democratisation movement?
- Code of ethics, media regulations, broadcasting and publishing authorisations ?
- What are the limits to freedom of speech ?
- Is there such a thing as a readers' corner in Chinese newspapers?

Session 2

The European vision

- Traditional media ratings on the decline
- Media as a traditional government watchdog.
- Sacrificing the facts to opinion-based reporting.
- More open forums for public opinion
- Market-based limitations imposed on the media.
- Uniformity in media content
- Less time for the inquiry, research and writing process in journalism.
- Media regulation as a precious tool in democratising countries.
- The need for national public awareness for a coalition between journalists, the public and the political elite
- Concentration in press ownership
- Absence of truly European media and differences in the nature and role of the press among European countries
- The need for a boost in the support of basic rights and freedoms.
- The role of ethnic minority journalists in stimulating the current debate
- The importance of multiple sources for journalists and the public's need for a diverse press
- Predominance of advertising over editorial space
- The 4th Estate : an outdated myth
- Loss in the meaning and pertinence of the media for citizens
- Predominance of acquired information over researched information
- Information from non-professional sources : a new factor
- Chinese journalism has helped build democracy, but has lost some of its strength
- Dissenting voices can be found even within media conglomerates
- A high earning capacity ensures a media company's editorial independence
- The Civil Service in Europe
- There is a need to defend methods AND content

The Chinese questions addressed to Europeans

- Who is fighting against media concentration, and how ?
- What are the consequences of selling a media company to a foreign group ?

Session 3

The convergences between the European and Chinese society

- We no longer take time to investigate, research or write.
- The takeover of news media companies by foreign groups is an issue worth considering.
- The media are forever fighting to remain independent from an editorial and from a financial point of view
- There is pressure from politicians, the market and the public
- The public must support the media
- Who will be watchdogs of the watchdogs (= the media)?
- We must go back to the fundamental rules of our profession: neutrality and honesty
- Where is the balance between responsibility and freedom?
- The paradox is that we need advertising though it may hinder editorial freedom
- The public has a right to be informed, the right for journalists to inform must be guaranteed by the public **authorities**

The divergences between the European and Chinese society

- We are at different stage of development, and therefore our priorities are different
- The concept of public service
- The limitations imposed are of varying types and varying importance
- Reference is made to western-only ethical standards

Session 4

Acting together on common challenge

- Continue the dialogue around the theme of responsibility
- Continue sharing in the group through an Internet platform
- Develop two-way exchanges between media companies
- Increase the number of foreign correspondents on site
- Promote on site reports
- Promote training in schools and universities and then have exchange programmes for professionals
- Better train journalists so they can convey this message
- Keep a dialogue open as we belong to the same world wide community, without focusing on our differences
- It is our duty to inform our respective readers and viewers