

WT13 –The challenges and advantages of Euro-Chinese dialogue

Session 1

The Chinese vision

- Chinese believe the Europeans don't understand the rise of China.
- The West doesn't know what are China's intentions.
- China believes their economic growth has been ill perceived.
- The West is concerned about the economic growth of China, because it may challenge the power of the Western supremacy.
- The rise of China changes the rule of the game and the role they play is a very important issue to the world.
- There are some instable factors in China that worry the European. Mainly because China reforms its economy and brings it to globalisation with an intact government. This is quite difficult for the Western and Eastern Europeans to understand.
- On a historical perspective, China is still trying to catch up with Europe instead of surpassing it, because China have been through several suffering periods and has depended on European power.
- In spite the economic growth there has also been a social cost, like income disparities, unemployment problems, etc.
- The problem of all the misunderstanding is due to the lack of Knowledge.
- Everyone is talking about China. There are a lot of experts who don't understand China, but just because they publish what the market wants, people tend to be ill informed.
- Today Europe has a better knowledge on how to approach Chinese Government. It's not through human rights, like the US tried to lobby China, several years ago.
- The lack of translations in the market makes it hard for the Chinese to have any knowledge on Europe or even on the work of Chinese Nobel Prize winners. Although there has been some cooperation between Germany, France, Austria, France, there are

still other languages that need to be translated.

The European questions addressed to Chinese

- Q: European students go to China to work, do business, not study. A: Although Europeans want to go to China; they don't have the level of Chinese to enrol in Chinese universities. That is why many go only to study the language. Basically the problem is linguistics.
- Q: Mainly African students go to study for a degree. Why? Is it because China is considered a less developed country? A: Europeans tend to choose other universities elsewhere in the world because they can and Africans go to China because they have scholarships given by the Chinese government.
- Q : How to move forward? A : Europe should give a much better idea of its education to China to bring more students to Europe, instead of only the US. The US has a lot of money to attract students. They can easily give scholarships and Europe is yet to develop the way education works. The best is to promote exchange scholars inside Europe so foreigners can come and have the possibility to experience different points of view between different European countries.
- Q: Why didn't the Chinese send delegation in the 17th century to Europe? And why did Westerners go to China? A: Actually, Beijing sent a man into Europe during the 13th century.
- Q: The Europeans are surprised by the fact that China is more individualistic than ever. So how can there be loyalty with the party, because everyone's goal is to become richer.
- For the Europeans the Chinese market is open but not yet transparent. It is difficult to understand the way Chinese do business. Instead of dealing with an institution, you deal with a person. Northern Europeans and Americans have difficulty understanding it.