

WT14 – The reform of higher education

Session 1

The Chinese vision

- Increase in number of Master's students and graduates
- Increase in the number of universities, from those for the elite to those educating the masses.
- Increase in research investment
- Management system reform
- Differentiating between university education and research
- Development of university quality
- Differences between universities and colleges fading
- Economic development increasing the demand for quality public education
- Right to universal education
- National development strategy
- Internationalising education
- Science and technology development
- Relaxing selection criteria for admission exams
- Increasing public spending on disciplines popular on the market

the European questions addressed to Chinese

- Q: What is the impact of students returning to work in China? A: A positive influence on university culture. This aids academic development, research and teaching methodology and increases competitiveness.
- Q: How does the government control education? A: It exerts considerable control over foreign universities setting up campuses in China, financially supports underprivileged students, regulates private universities by passing laws and lists foreign universities with which to cooperate.
- Q: Is university quality evaluated? A: There are internal checks as well as checks carried out by the government and an external organisation.
- Q: What is the link with the government? A: Investment in research and education is unequal. Projects must be presented before funding is granted, and the more projects are accepted, the better this is for the university.
- Q: How are underprivileged students assisted? A: Those who cannot afford education are granted government and university scholarships.
- Q: What policies will promote international cooperation? A: Encouraging diversity and mutual benefit.
- What is the university's social responsibility?



WT14 – The reform of higher education Session 2 :

The European vision

The questions addressed by the Chinese to the Europeans

WT14 – The reform of higher education Session 3

Similarities

- Universities and the State: the key role of the State, macro regulation, institutional autonomy
- Higher education and society: adapting to social needs, change and responsibility; autonomy; providing a base for socioeconomic development
- Quality assurance: the key role of quality; quality of staff training and retraining, quality diversity, standards and evaluation methods; innovative teaching methods
- Funding: the State - the main source of funding, the challenge of improving the use of allocated resources

Differences

- Universities and the State: China is one country while the EU has 27 member countries; different administrative models
- Higher education and society: a different level of socioeconomic development requires different policies, university policies are to a large extent market-driven
- Quality assurance: diversity of criteria and priorities at different development stages
- Funding: Distribution and sourcing principles are different

WT14 – The reform of higher education Session 4

How to enhance the dialogue between China and Europe ?

- These meetings are very important. Universities have allocated funds for this through the Leonard Mundis plan and EU funds
- Actual teaching methods must include the sharing of knowledge and models
- Establishing a long term research project between China and Europe, sharing methods and strengthening university relations
- Common research networks, think tanks which also allow knowledge sharing not only between universities but also with other elements of society
- An exploratory survey should be conducted on the state of social and natural science in each country. Funding must be sourced for a meeting in China.