



“The Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”

Welcome Address

by

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– Check Against Delivery –

Hamburg Chamber of Commerce

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Your Excellency Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg,
distinguished Members of the European and Hamburg Parliament,
Your Excellency Ambassador Santer,
First Mayor Scholz,
Mr. Li Yizhong,
Mr. Yao Shenhong,
dear Mr. Li Yunpeng,
Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps,
Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce I like to welcome you to the
“Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe” 2014!

It is my outstanding pleasure to welcome His Excellency Mr. Xavier Bettel, Prime
Minister of Luxemburg.

Thank you very much, Prime Minister, that you accepted our invitation and that you
and your high-ranking business delegation will be with us throughout the next two
days.

A special welcome also goes to Mr. Li Yunpeng, Director of Board and President of
China Ocean Shipping (Group) Company (COSCO).

We take it as a special honour that you, dear Mr. Li, are here with us today giving us
your insights about the future of EU – China economic relations and about your
experiences as Chinese investor in Europe.

And I very warmly welcome Mr. Li Yizhong, Chairman of the China Federation of
Industrial Economics (CFIE), and Mr. Yao Shenhong, Executive Vice Chairman and
Secretary General of the China Association of Trade in Services (CATIS), our two co-
hosts.

My dear friends, thank you very much for coming and for bringing more than 110
delegates in total - the biggest delegations ever visiting the “Hamburg Summit”!

My deep gratitude goes to you, your staff and especially to your delegates who came
all the way from China to attend this conference as speakers and participants.

We had an excellent cooperation in preparing the sixth “Hamburg Summit” during the
last months.

Thank you very much for that!

And thank you so much for supporting us during all the last years!

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Two exciting days full of new contacts, inspiring discussions and valuable insights are lying ahead of us.

This “Hamburg Summit”, taking place only a few days after the 65th anniversary of the People’s Republic of China, will be a very special one.

It is the conference’s 10th anniversary, we have established a new format, the Young Leaders Forum, and our conference is honoured by the presence of a number of high-ranking politicians:

- by His Excellency Prime Minister Li Keqiang,
- by Luxembourg’s Prime Minister Xavier Bettel,
- by Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament,
- by the German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier,
- and by EU-Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht.

So, it is fair to say that the “Hamburg Summit” has developed into the main Chinese-European exchange platform for high-level political and business leaders.

And, I can assure you, there will be a lot to discuss!

This year’s “Hamburg Summit” is an excellent opportunity to take a closer look at the reforms Beijing decided upon last November and on their implementation:

- How do the reforms affect China, its business community and Europe?
- How do international enterprises investing in China evaluate the development since the last National Congress in 2013?
- And how can European companies add their share in the successful implementation of the reforms?

These questions are of utmost importance not only for China and Europe, but for the whole world as the People’s Republic is on its way to catch up with the most important economic superpowers worldwide.

The People’s Republic’s economic stability and modernisation is elementary to all of us!

China’s problems are our problems and vice versa.

Europe and China share the same challenges, namely:

- finding ways to sustainable growth and prosperous societies,
- establishing a stable environment for the business communities in times of rising geopolitical risks,
- fighting climate change,
- and – finally - creating a global trade order that is adequate for the political and economic framework of the 21st century.

These problems cannot be solved by Europe or China alone. We have to tackle these problems in a joint effort.

And the “Hamburg Summit” aims at being the right platform where these challenges can be discussed on an eye-to-eye-level.

But what is the right way that leads to sustainable solutions?

In my opinion, one thing is for sure:

We will not solve these problems by installing new trade barriers.

The Hamburg Chamber of Commerce firmly believes that we can successfully address these challenges only by overcoming all forms of protectionism and by further implementing free trade principles in the framework of the existing international order.

Implementing new trade barriers will definitely lead us in the wrong direction.

We do need more exchange and not less!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I sincerely thank our over 50 speakers who have come to Hamburg from China, the US and Europe.

Their experiences, evaluations and comments are the essence and the spirit of this conference.

I would also like to thank all participants who have gathered here today.

And, last but not least, I thank our sponsors for their endeavors and their support of this conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I now have the honor to declare the sixth “Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe” open.

And I like to give the floor to our First Mayor Olaf Scholz who will welcome you on behalf of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

First Mayor Scholz, the floor is yours!