



“The Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”

Welcome and introduction to the Keynote Session

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!

In my capacity as Conference Chairman of the “Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”, I like to very warmly welcome you to the opening session of this year’s “Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”!

First of all I like to thank Mr. Melsheimer, First Mayor Scholz, Mr. Li Yizhong and Mr. Yao Shenhong for their words of welcome and opening remarks.

Dear First Mayor Scholz,

We are very grateful for the tremendous help the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg has given to us in the whole process of organizing this conference.

Dear Mr. Li and dear Mr. Yao,

Thank you so much for all your endeavors in order to make the sixth “Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe” a success.

Without your valuable support we would not have been able to organize this conference!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I now have the pleasure to introduce our two keynote speakers to you.

One representing Europe and the other representing China, their work is closely linked to one of the main topics of this conference: China’s outbound direct investments.

I like to welcome His Excellency Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg, as our first keynote speaker!

Mr. Bettel was appointed Prime Minister in December 2013 and also acts as Minister of State, Minister for Communications and Media and Minister for Religious Affairs.

From 2009 until 2011, he assumed the role of Chairman of the Luxembourg Democratic Party parliamentary group and became Chairman of the party in January 2013.

Since the small country of Luxembourg receives the biggest share of China's outbound direct investments in Europe, we are looking forward to hearing the country's experiences with Chinese investments and what changes the Prime Minister predicts for Chinese investments in the coming years.

For the Chinese point of view on this topic, I like to warmly welcome Mr. Li Yunpeng, Director of Board and President, China Ocean Shipping (Group) Company (COSCO).

Mr. Li started his career as a crew member, and he witnessed the exciting journey of COSCO becoming China's largest shipping company.

COSCO serves as a bridge between Europe and China, and the company was among the first to follow the "go global" strategy of the Chinese government.

Mr. Li will present to us his experiences with investments in Europe.

And he will give us an outlook on the EU-China economic relations.

Your Excellency Mr. Bettel,

dear Mr. Li,

Again a very warm welcome from my side.

Thank you for being here with us today!

First of all, I like to give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Bettel, Prime Minister of The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Your Excellency Mr. Bettel,

Thank you very much for your speech and the insights you shared with us!

Now I ask Mr. Li to come to the stage and give his speech.

Mr. Li, the floor is yours!

Your Excellency Mr. Bettel,

Dear Mr. Li,

Thank you very much again for your insights.

They were an excellent start for our “Hamburg Summit” and for the discussions to follow.

You very concisely described the importance of Chinese foreign investments which will surely increase throughout the next years.

And we should welcome this development!

Thank you again, Mr. Bettel and Mr. Li, for your excellent speeches!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In our next panel we will discuss how Europe and China – the bull and the dragon – perceive each other.

I now ask Mr. Andreas Cichowicz, Editor in Chief and Director of Television of Norddeutscher Rundfunk, to come to the stage and take over the moderation.

Mr. Cichowicz, the floor is yours.