



“The Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”

Closing Remarks

by

Nikolaus W. Schües

**Conference Chairman;
former President, Hamburg Chamber of Commerce;
Shipowner, Reederei F. Laeisz**

– Check Against Delivery –

Hamburg Chamber of Commerce

October 11, 2014



Hamburg
Chamber of Commerce

In my capacity as Conference Chairman I like to thank His Excellency Li Keqiang, President Schulz and Minister Steinmeier for their inspiring speeches which painted a clear picture of the prospects for the relationship between China and Europe.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was at the last “Hamburg Summit” in November 2012 when a wise Chinese man taught me something about the Chinese culture that I did not forget until this very day.

And that man happened to be the leader of the 2012 CFIE delegation, Mr. Lu Yaohua.

Mr Lu told me about the most popular number in China – the lucky number “8”.

The number 8, “ba” in Chinese – if pronounced correctly - sounds very similar to “fa”, which means “getting rich”, and therefore it is a very special number symbolizing good luck and fortune.

I remembered Mr. Lu’s wise words when I prepared this speech.

Therefore I will be using eight sentences to close our Luncheon and this year’s “Hamburg Summit”.

First:

Prime Minister Li Keqiang’s presence underlines the importance that the Chinese government attaches to our conference, the “Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”, that now ranks among the top international conferences on China and Europe.

Second:

The participation of high-ranking European representatives like Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, Commissioner Karel De Gucht and Prime Minister Xavier Bettel is a clear sign that Europe is reaching out for China in order to integrate the People’s Republic into the framework of a rule-based international order, for example with a bilateral investment agreement.

Third:

I deeply thank our German Foreign Minister Mr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier who attends the “Hamburg Summit” for the second time underlining that the bilateral German-Chinese relations are closer than ever.

Fourth:

Our two Chinese co-hosts CFIE and CATIS did a tremendous job in bringing the biggest delegations ever to our “Hamburg Summit” which clearly shows that business associations in China are developing quickly and already today are vital protagonists in Chinese economic policy.

Fifth:

This year’s “Hamburg Summit” breaks all records in terms of quantity and quality of participants:

For the first time, we welcomed more than 550 participants from more than ten different countries!

I would especially like to highlight the strong presence of Chinese participants this year that we are especially delighted about.

China literally met Europe during the last two days!

Our conference would be nothing without all the high-ranking speakers who came from different parts of the world to share their knowledge and insights on the EU-China relations with us.

Thank you all for making this year’s conference a success!

Sixth:

In our discussion panels a lot of examples were discussed how China and Europe can support each other in overcoming the economic challenges.

For instance, Europe and especially Hamburg can support China in the field of green technologies with innovative concepts and solutions.

Just to give you an example, Hamburg is the market leader in hydrogen technologies, and I trust that this topic will become even more important in the future of our bilateral economic relations.

Wind and solar as energies for hydrogen production are heaven sent – so to say!

It is in other words a substitute of political dependence against technical dependence which results in independence.

Seventh:

Even though the “Hamburg Summit” is a business conference, we, the organizers, have looked over the rim of our teacups and invited seven renowned artists from famous Chinese art academies who have worked on seven paintings during the last month.

The paintings are displayed here today and portray different scenes from Hamburg.

After my speech, you will have the chance to look at the pictures and talk to the artists!

I sincerely thank the artists for their contribution and I like to thank BELL ART and our good friend Chen Mang for having prepared the exhibition.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last but not least, here comes sentence number eight:

The sixth “Hamburg Summit” was a great success.

I sincerely hope you enjoyed the discussions, gained new insights and made good contacts.

Referring to the Chinese lucky number 8, I wish you all good luck, strong health and prosperity and I look forward to welcoming you in 2016 for the seventh “Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe” here at the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce.

Again, sincerest thanks to all of you.

I wish you all a safe journey home.

Goodbye and Zai Jian!