

**EU-China Summit**  
**London, April 2 1998**

**JOINT PRESS STATEMENT**

On April 2 1998, H.E Zhu Rongji, Premier of the People's Republic of China, the Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom - the current EU Presidency - and Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, held the first China-EU Summit in London. The two sides held an in-depth exchange of views on the further development of China-EU relations and international issues of mutual interest in a friendly atmosphere, and reached broad consensus.

Both sides agreed that with a great and profound change of the world situation, an increase in dialogue and cooperation between the EU and China is not only in the fundamental interests of both sides but is also conducive to world peace, stability and development.

China expressed keen interest in the process of EU integration and welcomed and supported the launching of the Euro. The EU welcomed China's strong commitment to market reform and the impressive way it has undertaken the economic restructuring process. In particular, the EU commended the new Chinese Government's bold agenda of specific initiatives announced at the Ninth National People's Congress last month.

The EU side briefed the Chinese on the Commission's recent Communication on China. China welcomed the Commission's proposal, which aims to upgrade the status and substance of the relationship. The two sides expressed their hope to build a long-term, stable and constructive partnership between China and the EU for the twenty-first century.

The two sides stressed that stronger economic and trade ties between China and the EU are an important foundation for the continued development of their relations.

Both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to securing China's entry into the World Trade Organisation on terms that will be of mutual benefit and reinforce the world trading system. The Chinese side appreciated the EU's support for China's entry into the WTO and reiterated its desire to become a member at an early date on the basis of balanced rights and



obligations. The two sides agreed to make a concerted effort to make continued progress on the WTO negotiations over the coming months, focusing on the task of securing agreement on a package that would give substantial market access for goods and services.

The two sides welcomed progress made in the China-EU human rights dialogue since its resumption last year. The EU welcomed China's decision to ratify the UN Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights and its intention to sign the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Both sides agreed on the importance of achieving further meaningful progress through a continued EU-China dialogue covering all aspects of human rights, and supported by a wide range of cooperation projects.

The EU praised China's steadfast reaction to the financial troubles in Asia, particularly its continued determination not to devalue its currency and its commitment to maintaining the pace of economic and financial reform. Both sides expressed their conviction that Asia will not only overcome the temporary difficulties caused by the financial turmoil, but with effective implementation of the necessary reforms should emerge even stronger than before.

The two sides will strengthen their exchanges and cooperation in the international financial and monetary field. The EU offered China a package of technical assistance measures aimed at facilitating the creation of a sound financial system, an offer which was welcomed by China.

The two sides believe that this successful and productive Summit is of great significance to EU-China relations. They agreed to sustain the momentum of high-level exchanges and to consider holding such Summits on an annual basis.