

Previous five summits in review

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First EU-China Summit, 1998

The first EU-China summit took place in London on April 2, 1998.

Second EU-China Summit, 1999

Press Statement of the EU

1. The second European Union-China Summit was held in Beijing on December 21, 1999, between the Prime Minister of Finland, Mr Paavo Lipponen, representing the Presidency of the European Union, the President of the European Commission, Mr Romano Prodi and the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China, Mr Zhu Rongji. The Summit concluded with a meeting with the President of the People's Republic of China, Mr Jiang Zemin.

2. The discussions were held in an open and friendly atmosphere, reflecting the strong momentum created by the first EU-China Summit in April 1998. Both sides agreed to build upon this momentum to further strengthening and deepening their multi-faceted relations.

3. The EU welcomes China's determination to continue on the path of reforms and stands ready to share experience and assist China in this process. The EU welcomes the steps already taken by China to enter the WTO but nevertheless underlines the issues that are of great importance to Europe. Bearing this in mind the EU stands ready to negotiate when the Chinese side has completed the examination of the EU positions.

4. The EU expressed concern about the pace of China's evolution towards a more open and transparent society, based on the rule of law and internationally recognised human rights standards. It further urged China to ratify the 2 UN covenants already signed, and stands ready to share experience concerning their ratification and implementation. The EU also encouraged the Chinese authorities to abolish capital punishment.

5. The EU reviewed its co-operation programs with China, notably legal co-operation, education, environment and Science and Technology. The possibilities offered for future co-operation by new information and communication technologies were also discussed: the information society and knowledge-intensive economy open up a wide spectrum of new contacts in the different fields of high technology and learning.

6. Both sides agreed that the strengthening of links between their private sectors would be of great importance to increase the trade and investment flows particularly during the post WTO accession period.

7. The EU briefed China on the results of the Helsinki Summit; on the EU enlargement process; on the strengthened EU crisis management capabilities; and on the successful introduction of the Euro. China informed the EU on the recent developments, both political and economic, in their country. The EU welcomed the smooth transfer of sovereignty in Macao and stressed the importance it attaches to the effective implementation of the 'one country two systems' in the new Special Administrative Region.

8. Both the EU and China highly evaluated what the ASEM (Asia-Europe meetings) had achieved in closer regional integration and co-operation as one of the channels bringing the EU and China

together.

In regional affairs, stability in the Korean Peninsula was discussed.