Joint Statement
3rd Meeting of China-EU Round Table
Beijing, 24 June 2008

1. The China-EU Round Table held its 3rd meeting in Beijing from 23 to 24 June, 2008.

2. The Round Table is co-established by the China Economic and Social Council (CESC) and the EU Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in accordance with the Joint Statement of the 9th China-EU Summit released in Helsinki on September 9, 2006.

3. The fruitful results achieved at the two roundtable meetings held in 2007 have been recognized by the leaders in the Joint Statement of the 10th China-EU Summit held in Beijing on 28 November 2007 with the view that the continued exchanges and pragmatic cooperation between CESC and EESC constitute a part of the China-EU relationship and that the civil society dialogue between the two sides should be strengthened. The Round Table is convinced that the role of organised civil society is important and its voice must be heard in developing the China-EU relationship and in the ongoing negotiations.

4. The third meeting of the China-EU Round Table was co-chaired by Mr. Wang Zhongyu, Chairman of the CESC and Mr. Dimitris Dimitriadis, President of the EESC.

5. During the meeting, delegates from both sides held extensive discussions and exchanged views on the themes “Corporate Social Responsibility” and “China-EU Trade and Investment” in an atmosphere of equality, frankness and friendship.

6. The Round Table agrees that economic and trade cooperation between China and the EU constitutes an important part of the China-EU Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The rapid growth of economic and trade cooperation between China and the EU has achieved mutual benefits and win-win results, and has made contributions to economic growth, increase of employment and consumers' welfare of both sides.
7. As this cooperation and relationship continue to deepen and grow in importance, the Round Table stresses that China and the EU need to ensure that their economic growth remains sustainable in the long term. This means respecting the necessity for sustainable economic development, environmental protection, promotion of social justice, decent working conditions and good governance.

8. The Round Table notes that the EU and China should increase their efforts to establish a stable, predictable, reliable and transparent legal and administrative framework that fosters investment and smooth business development.

9. The Round Table acknowledges that the issue of trade imbalance, which is caused by various factors, should be addressed. As strategic partners, China and the EU should deal with economic and trade conflicts and disagreements reasonably through constructive consultation and dialogue for mutual benefit and win-win results.

10. In this context, the Round Table welcomes the establishment of the high level economic and trade dialogue. It calls for the process of improving the China-EU Economic and Trade Agreement signed in 1985 and the negotiations on the China-EU Partnership Cooperation Agreement (PCA) to be accelerated so as to create a long-term, steady and predictable environment. The Round Table calls for organized civil society to be engaged in the ongoing trade negotiations and is ready to contribute to the process.

11. The Round Table urges both sides to work together to promote the WTO Doha negotiations and strengthen cooperation on other multilateral occasions.

12. The Round Table believes that China and the EU share a common goal to build a human-based harmonious society. Both sides agree to promote corporate social responsibility (CSR) as they face enormous challenges brought about by globalisation. The two sides agree to work together to promote harmonious relations between labour and employers, to prevent protectionism from impairing sound economic growth and cooperation, and to strengthen exchanges of ideas and expand consensus on climate change.

13. The Round Table recalls that under the Millenium Development Goals, CSR is listed as one of the tools for achieving a more equitable, sustainable and inclusive development. The Round Table reiterates its opinion that CSR can be defined as a concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns over and above what is legally required of them into their strategic decision-making processes, in their business operations and in their interaction with their stakeholders.

14. The Round Table stresses the growing importance of CSR, noting that globalisation poses new challenges, new risks but also offers new opportunities for business and social partners and that an upgrading in the implementation of
CSR is required.

15. The Round Table calls on the enterprises of China and of Europe to engage in CSR and the promotion of core labour rights. Capacity building, the promotion of new initiatives and exchanges of good practices between China and Europe could be fostered. A follow-up on this issue will be useful and should be encouraged.

16. Both sides agree to implement all the agreements reached between the CESC and the EESC in the past and to continue improving the Round Table mechanisms and engagement in consultations, dialogue and research on economic and social issues of common interest. The Round Table objective is to promote economic development and social progress in China and the EU and to contribute to the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between China and the EU.

17. The Round Table appreciates the host’s efforts to organize more activities in the margins of the Round Table in order to enhance people to people communication and mutual understanding.

18. Both sides decide that the fourth meeting of China-EU Roundtable will take place in Paris on November, 6 and 7, 2008 and will discuss two topics: trade and investment and recycling industries.

Beijing, 24 June 2008

ZHANG Junjiu
Vice-President
China Economic and Social Council

Alexander GRAF VON SCHWERIN
Vice-President
European Economic and Social Committee