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The EU Relations with China

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Abstract

Chinese Popular Republic and the European Economic Community (EEC) established diplomatic relations on May 6, 1975. Since then, 40 years have elapsed. In all these years, China-EU relations were established strategic partnership in all areas, characterized by peace, growth, reform and civilization.

In the present paper I analyzed the relations between European Union and China at the global level and I tried to realize a profound conclusion regarding this issue.

Keywords: European Union, China, International Relations

Introduction

The Romanian-Chinese first official contacts took place in Paris in 1880 between Mihail Kogălniceanu and the Chinese in the French capital. On October 18, 1939, the diplomatic relations were established between Romania and the Republic of China. They were discontinued on July 10, 1941, following recognition by the Romanian government in Nanjing government, made up of pro-Japanese elements.

China has diplomatic relations with 171 countries; Romania established diplomatic relations with China on 5 October 1949. China is a UN member and one of the five permanent members of the Security Council. It is also a member of Apec, Asean, Fao, G-77, Unamid, Unctad, Unesco and many other international organizations.

One of the main features of the partnership EU - China distinguishes the EU's partnerships with Japan or South Korea, was how the two were able to establish an early dialogue, even without any involvement of the Americans. The Geneva Conference of 1954 seems to have been one of the benchmarks that had a positive impact on the relationship between China and Europe. All it takes place at a time when China was an urgent need for a variety of goods that the Soviet Union could not and they supply so that Western Europe was seen as having an attitude friendly to China, unlike the US.¹

In 2007 China established a strategic partnership with the European Union (CAP) reflects the rapid expansion of trade relations between them, which will improve economic and trade cooperation Treaty between the European Community and Chinese Popular Republic signed in 1985.

In 2008 was launched in Beijing Economic and trade dialogue Summit (HED) between the European Union and China as a tool to address issues of common concern: diversification of trade, investment market, protection of intellectual property rights. The HED last meeting held in Beijing in December 2010.

The rise of China and its growing role in international affairs involve both challenges and opportunities for the EU and its Member States. The challenges for the European Union consist of understanding and cooperation with China. Economic, trade and European investment in China tend to dominate contemporary relationship, although there are other issues on their agenda. Economic relationship makes it difficult for the EU to develop a more coherent policy towards China.

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¹ Natee Vichitsoratsatra, *The EU and China in the Context of Inter-Regionalism* in Wiessala, Wilson, Taneja, op. cit., pp. 68 – 69.

In addition, there are also those EU Member States that have significant interests in China most likely would not have agreed to accept a more comprehensive policy to China because they would harm their economic relations.² On the other hand, the challenge for China is to keep the relationship strong trade and economic with the EU and its Member States, while ensuring that the existence of issues potentially separator like human rights, Tibet and Taiwan, not being negative development of these relations. Apparently, China would like to have a much closer relationship with the European Union, especially if they have a partition between Europe and the United States, and thus could balance US interests. "Both the EU and US supported China's integration into the global system, with the hope that this will ensure a commitment to international institutions that will manage to introduce political and social changes in the domestic front."³ At December 21, 2001, after 15 years of negotiations, Chinese Popular Republic became the 143 the member of the World Trade Organization.

Legal Cooperation

European Union and Chinese Popular Republic are considered each other strategic partners, the general framework of events of political and economic nature between the two ENIT characterized by an additional component of diplomacy. Despite various dysfunctions of commercial relationship between the EU and Chinese Popular Republic has continuity and consistency. Since the "Treaty of Trade and Economic Cooperation" in 1985 no longer corresponds to the current situation, the two sides agreed to negotiate a new agreement wider encompassing both aspects of economic cooperation and political and "Framework Agreement European Union - China Partnership and Cooperation Agreement "(PCA).

Relations between Europe and China

From the years 1000-1500, China led the world in economic development. As trade between China and Europe is starting to expand in the 1500s, we note that China's economy is more productive than the European economy.⁴

Until 20 years ago, the historians' studies from different parts of the world were kept somewhat separate. This made it possible for us to believe that the foundation of the New World was primarily a "story" European namely "story" Europeans exploring the world. But with globalization and migration of population, we see that what is happening in other parts of the world do not differ much from what was happening in Europe.

Thus, there is a process of unification of knowledge from different fields and different countries, so that we have a world more informed and more efficient technologies.

The EU relations with China were established in 1975 and are governed by the Agreement on Cooperation and Trade.

The EU is the largest trading partner of China while China is the largest source of EU imports and also the second largest trading partner in both directions. To reflect the intensity and scope of their strategic partnership, the EU and China decided in 2010 to improve bilateral relations on Foreign Affairs on security issues and global challenges such as climate change, global economic recovery, etc. They have annual meetings and political discussions dealing with political, commercial and economic. These meetings include more than 50 discussions and agreements on different sectors, ranging from environmental policy to industrial policy, education or culture.

In international relations, climate change is happening with new challenges for states, and one of those challenges is the energy security. Thus, energy security challenges today are first on the agenda EU and China.

The politicians therefore continue to seek new answers. "This includes not only diversification of source and origin, as well as support for fossil fuels and to improve energy use efficiency.

In these trials, geopolitical concerns seem to attract more attention than long-term plans to transition to renewable energy systems. As a result, the perception that China and the EU are potential competitors in the geopolitical sphere to access foreign markets seems to eclipse their mutual interest in developing renewable energy and improving the efficiency of the exchange of technology. However, it is often overlooked that both the EU and China are well positioned to cooperate with the countries producing and to compete in the development of renewable technologies peak."⁵

Their partnership was the increasingly more institutionalized and formalized to ensure continuous dialogue and a course of visits between China and the European Union. It was described by using several terms such as "long-term partnership", "partnership comprehensive", "partnership maturation", "a strategic relationship and lasting" or "close partners".

"The China is experiencing urbanization and an accelerated industrialization, involving an increase in demand for energy."⁶

There are limits to bilateral possibilities that have been demonstrated as trade disputes with China in 2005. There were calls made against Union solidarity by EU Trade Commissioner Intervention to impose levies Chinese exporters of textiles and footwear (and on others), which proved to be clearly more effective than bilateral initiatives. Moreover, institutional momentum in the European Union provides a counteracting force against such tendencies among Member States. For example, the position taken by the European Parliament to adopt a strong line of questions regarding human rights in China imposes some limits on the ability of individual Member States to lead a purely bilateral policy.

In 2005 this was demonstrated when the arms embargo on China, imposed after the Tiananmen events was maintained; However despite strong pressure from the leaders of France and Germany. At that time there was a combination of opposition from political leaders in some

² Georg Wiessala, J.F. Wilson, Pradeep Taneja (edit.), The European Union and China: Interests and Dilemmas, Amsterdam: Editions Rodopi, 2009, p. 31

³ David Shambaugh, „The New Strategic Triangle: US and European Reactions to China's Rise" în The Washington Quarterly, 28 (3), 2005, pp. 7-25, apud Georg Wiessala, J.F. Wilson, Pradeep Taneja, op. cit., p. 32.

⁴ Amineh, Medhi, The Globalization of Energy: China and European Union, 2010, Library of Congress.

⁵ Buzan, Barry, Ole Wæver, Jaap de Wilde, Securitatea. Un nou cadru de analiză, CA Publishing, Cluj-Napoca, 2011

⁶ Di Nolfo, Ennio, Introducere în istoria relațiilor internaționale, All, București, 2008

Member States (notably the UK and the Scandinavian countries), opposition US and hostile to the institutions in Brussels, which showed both compromise intergovernmental nature of the process decision-making and the importance of powerful external actors. It is expected that in the period 2005-2030 energy consumption in China and India will increase and decrease in the EU and the US, precisely because the latter are industrialized countries where per capita consumption is already quite high, while China's somewhat new in this field. Relations between China and the EU have many facets: political, economic and cultural. Because of the growing interdependence of the two regions became important cultural link. So that cultural and educational relations between the EU and China have developed rapidly in recent years.

Increasingly more programs were developed between universities, enabling a rich exchange between the two cultures. New generations have many opportunities to learn about historical and cultural differences of each and similarities between them. Chinese and European culture is described by a rich spectrum of literature, music and film, showing a common interest in traditions, mentalities and lifestyles of both.

Impressing China's growth has resulted in the fact that the nation is perceived today as the second largest exporter and second world power. China is the EU's second largest trading partner and the EU is China's largest trading partner.

EU open market was and is a major contributor to the growth of Chinese exports, while the EU has also benefited from the growth of the Chinese market. Both sides have a chance to maintain a common alliance of both to have benefits.

Political dialogue between the EU and China was first established in 1994. Common problems between the two powers dealing with topics ranging from global warming, illegal migration, human trafficking, finance, foreign investments, exchange of educational experience and the security situation in Asia.

Recently, a new discussion on strategic and foreign policy issues took place on May 20, 2010 in order to cooperate on several levels on issues of global concern. The Summit in Nanjing in November 2009 brought a series of agreements and initiatives with a joint statement, both sides reaffirmed their active commitment to peace and sustainable development in the world, just and peaceful resolution of disputes.

Chinese interests are integrated general direction to promote their products on the European / EU, identifying points of penetration in other areas of consumption potential and involvement in significant projects in strategic areas (energy and transport infrastructure). Economic relations between the EU and China are marked by heterogeneous aspects: China is the second trading partner and the source of imports to the EU, while the EU is the first trading partner of China; There are major imbalances in bilateral trade (the EU imported over 3.15 times more than it exported in 2008) and direct investment (EUR 4.5 billion in China, compared to under one billion euro in the EU).

EU proposes extending the political dialogue in areas of standards for decent work, health and aging. Similarly, China must reform its growth model in order to promote

social inclusion and increase the purchasing power of the population. Partners cooperate to define and implement balanced monetary and fiscal policies.

The European Union is China's imports of third place and fourth place in China's exports. At the same time, based on the Generalized System of Preferences, China is the third largest source of imports for the EU but reach seventh position when it comes to exports.

The relations with Germany and France are seen as priorities, each observing a certain diplomatic cooperation, for example through joint UN opposition to the Iraq war. There are European complaints about Chinese trade practices, and intellectual property theft, but the economic forces good relations.

Overall the strong demand from China is the industry-leading technologies, particularly the military segment, where there is still a ban dating from 1989 for European exports. If the European Union would give financial need generated by the current international crisis, trade in arms would throw Russia into the background in the field. China seeks to stimulate the European side to take this step, trying, for example through loans "generous" to Member indebted to achieve consensus on the issue. The need for money unconditionally by certain economic policy or otherwise make such attractive short-term infusion of capital.

Industrial products dominate trade between the EU-Russia and EU-China. Groups of products traded between them, but different. For example, electrical and electronic equipment, with passenger cars account for 38% of EU exports to Russia and 60% to China. These products are followed by plastics, optical and photographic instruments. EU imports from Russia are very different from those in China; almost half of them are in the form of petroleum products, iron, steel and precious metals. EU imports from China include products that have a high degree of processing.

In 2000 more than one third of them consisted of electrical and electronic equipment, toys and computer games (8.4%), clothing and accessories (6%), leather products (4%) and plastics (3.6%).

The Economic and trade exchanges between China and the EU is the factor most energetic and stable development of bilateral relations.

The EU is the largest trading partner of China for consecutive years and China is the second largest trade partner.

The total volume of trade between China and the EU reached in 2016 to 615 billion USD. With increased trade between China and the EU appeared some trade frictions between the two sides. Even in March this year, the EU announced the imposition of anti-dumping duties on Chinese products of stainless steel.

The Yang Yanyi ambassador of China believes that in recent years, China and the EU have failed to resolve commercial disputes on photovoltaic panels, polysilicon, wines and other products, is convinced that both sides can reconcile divergences in trade.

China expands its sphere of influence in its neighborhood, by all agreements of a commercial nature, which creates a certain dependency of smaller states such as those in Central Asia or Indochina Peninsula.

Get these agreements a certain amount of resources, access to geographically remote areas but seen as vital or

diplomatic support in the UN or regional alliances with Taiwan's isolation.

China seeks to discourage the assertion of *de jure* Taiwan independence by installing a number of tactical missiles in the Taiwan Straits. With over 1,200 such missiles in 2016, it can be inferred intention to intimidate the island.

The affirmation of an area of interest encompassing the "second island chain" is purely theoretical at the moment, meaning that missing (yet) able to support military. But it is a good indicator of where will be guided by political, economic and military action in the region.

The North Korea is an unresolved problem, turning a close ally in the ballast. China hopes to prevent Iraq as another intervention type and a gesture too reckless of the North Korean leadership.

The situation of Germany and China is one similar in some respects; both countries are strong producers in their geographic areas, while Germany tends to leadership of the European Union while China is trying to remain spearhead economic development on the Asian continent. There can be no question of a relationship with tradition; here we speak of a relationship born of need and exacerbated tensions arising between Europeans and Americans before the invasion of Iraq. There are direct interests of Germany in selling products on the huge Chinese market, and Chinese interest in German technology to access and manage transfers of know-how. Here we can recall a similar case -the relationship of Russia with Germany. In both cases the research brings a considerable advantage for Germany in dealing with the relevant two players of the international scene.

Of course the last visit of the German Chancellor had a clear target on the possible involvement of China in stabilizing economic plight at the old continent, which in turn could be a double-edged sword.

The European Union is not only the global market, with a bevy of other powers able to profit from the Eurozone crisis. In this context it should be noted how Chinese Popular Republic works and how this has a direct impact on the future of European construction.

While Europe tries to find solutions to the current political and economic situation in the euro area, China is a country with the growing economic potential and involvement in Europe is complex. Here we talk about a set of investment in infrastructure, low-interest loans and massive financial investment. It must be said that China's commitments in Europe, especially lately, is an effort to obtain certain benefits from the critical situation on our continent, but more than that China wants and accumulate knowledge about building an economy based on innovation, because long this country is able to maintain only the growth status table.

At the same time it is possible that the financial difficulties of the euro area is not regarded by the Chinese as everyone expects, as a priority and as an opportunity to expand their influence. We must also understand the difficulties that the Chinese state is confronts with million people living below the poverty line and massive support to keep Europe afloat (and thus maintain the standard of living in Europe) can be regarded as less ironic.

At the same time we must look at Sino-European as an opportunity, not as a game of zero sum, Europe must take all necessary measures to prevent China's political leverage resulting from the use by the country's massive its financial

powers, the key is to promote trade relations symmetrical. The promotion of such symmetrical relationship falls into a relevant extent, shoulders makers in Berlin.

Conclusion

Today, China's influence on world increases, and the EU is trying to strengthen its ties with China becoming an actor increasingly important in international relations.

The relations between China and Europe have become regularized, institutionalized and mutually beneficial, comprising a series of political, economic, military, scientific, technological, educational and cultural. European Union and China are engaged in increasingly more versatile in a relationship, especially on areas including trade, aid, human rights, security and international cooperation.

Despite this, trade dominates the relationship, while other issues appear regularly in discussions and provide a basis for dialogue and progress.

The China uses its economic and geopolitical power to counterbalance American hegemony is one of the few states that have acquired military power through its economic strength.

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