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INVITATION BY MARIA DA GRAÇA CARVALHO
Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, EP

To a meeting on

"Climate for Cooperation: The EU, China and Climate Change"

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14 October 2009, 18:H00-20:H00
Room 6Q2
European Parliament, Rue Wiertz

China alongside other emerging economies is a key country to a climate change agreement. EU-China co-operation on climate change offers considerable opportunities both for China and the EU.

The panel will identify "new ways of EU-China climate cooperation", based on the findings of a recent report by Brussels Institute of Contemporary Studies (BICCS).

Panel of speakers:

- Introduction by **Christian Egenhofer**, CEPS
- **Maria da Graça Carvalho,** Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, EPP Group, EP
- **Duncan Freeman**, BICCS and co-author of the study
- **Jo Leinen**, Chairman of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee, S&D Group, EP
- **Eva Lichtenberger,** Member of the Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China, Verts/ALE Group, EP
- **Stephan Agne**, DG Environment
- **Adriana Vázquez Garrido**, DG Relex (tbc)
- **Nick Campbell**, BusinessEurope

Hard copies of the report will be available at the meeting. For further information on the meeting or the report, please contact Isabelle Tenaerts Isabelle.Tenaerts@ceps.eu Tel +32 2 229 3956 or the CEPS website (www.ceps.eu).

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

CLIMATE FOR COOPERATION: THE EU, CHINA AND CLIMATE CHANGE

AUTHORS: DUNCAN FREEMAN & JONATHAN HOLSLAG (BRUSSELS INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY CHINESE STUDIES)

In the run up to the Copenhagen Climate Summit in December, China has positioned itself as one of the key actors in the negotiations on the post-Kyoto international framework. In the past, the EU has considered itself as a global leader on climate change policy, but this position is increasingly challenged by China. The recent speech by President Hu Jintao at the United Nations focusing on climate change demonstrated China's belief that it is a leader on climate change.

The policy priorities of the Chinese government have undergone a significant change in recent years. Economic development remains a central objective, but this is increasingly considered in terms of sustainability. Energy security has become a primary concern of the Chinese government and it recognizes that China has already begun to suffer significant effects of climate change. The twin questions of energy and climate security have prompted China to focus increasingly on how it produces and consumes energy.

China's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have increasingly contributed to global climate change as its economy and energy consumption has grown. But the situation with regard to China's emissions is complex. Compared to most developed economies, China still has low per capita GHG emissions, although these are rising. As economic development and growth continue, so will the rise in its energy consumption. In particular, China will experience a rapid move towards urbanization, which will greatly increase demands for energy.

China has adopted a wide range of policies that will have an impact on climate change. The National Climate Change Programme promulgated in 2007 sets out a strategy for tackling climate change, but even before this policies had been adopted that impact GHG emissions. Many of the policies China has adopted do not directly address carbon emissions, but are concerned with energy conservation and efficiency. For instance, at the centre of its policy China does not set goals for reductions in GHG emissions, but has targets for energy intensity (the amount of energy required to produce a unit of Gross Domestic Product). China has committed itself to strong targets on energy efficiency and expansion of renewable energy production. There are signs that it is well on track to meet or exceed many of the targets which it has set itself.

China has a strong interest in continuing its commitment to seeking energy and climate security. While participation in the international process will be part of that

commitment, the domestic policy process will be more important. Most of China's policy initiatives that affect climate change have been driven by domestic policy needs. It is likely that China's policy on climate change will be strengthened in the future as the government seeks to address energy and climate security.

In the run-up to the United Nations Climate Conference to be held in December in Copenhagen the EU and China have set out positions that diverge considerably. But China and Europe have highlighted clean energy cooperation as a key pillar of their partnership. The EU considers the combat against climate change as an important element in the development of its external relations and even as a source of soft power. The EU will need to recognize that China presents unique problems within the negotiation of a global agreement. Both quantitatively and qualitatively, China's climate change challenge is different from other developing countries. The EU and China will need to combine their domestic and international efforts to seek a successful outcome to the Copenhagen Summit and to sustain their long-term partnership on climate change that is likely to be based on both cooperation and competition.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Duncan Freeman is a Research Fellow at the Brussels Institute of Contemporary Chinese Studies (BICCS), Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) where he teaches and carries out research on developments in the Chinese economy, domestic policy and EU-China relations. Among his current research interests are China's outward investment and climate change policy.

Jonathan Holslag is head of research at the Brussels Institute of Contemporary China Studies (BICCS). His research focuses on regional security in Asia. He wrote the book *Macht of Mythe?* (VUB Press) with Gustaaf Geeraerts and has completed a new work on the Sino Indian relations (Columbia University Press). Recent scholarly articles were selected by *The Washington Quarterly, Journal of Strategic Studies, Parameters, East Asia, African and Asian Studies, Journal of Contemporary China, European Foreign Affairs Review, Europe's World, International relations of the Asia Pacific*, etc. Shorter analyses appeared in news outlets like *the Guardian, South China Morning Post, European Voice, Shanghai Daily, the Globalist, Foreign Policy* and *EU Observer.* He is a commentator of international affairs in the Belgian newspaper *De Morgen.* He contributed to various study projects organized by European and international institutions. Between 2007 and 2009, he was coordinator of the EU-China Academic Network (ECAN), an academic forum established by the European Commission. In 2007, he was team leader of a multidisciplinary research group that prepared several reports on China's foreign policy for the European Parliament. In 2008, he evaluated the EU's Asia Strategy for the European Commission. He has advised various European member states, the US department of defence, the UN Human Rights Council, and a few large companies. He studied political science at the Vrije

Universiteit Brussels (VUB) and completed additional programs on geopolitics and international security.