

## A united Europe in a fairer and more balanced relationship with China

*Draft resolution submitted by: Political Commission 3: External Affairs & Global Governance*

**While increasing its role in the international community, the People's Republic of China<sup>1</sup> has been solidifying its repressive rule back home. In our current global environment, the European Union's (EU) is not in a position to ignore the economic powerhouse that China has become, but it should not hesitate to speak up either. JEF Europe wants to give shape to an EU-China relationship that protects global values such as freedom and human rights, serves the EU's best interest, and tackles global challenges.**

JEF Europe,

- *Welcoming* China's explicit support for multilateralism, the Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, and the fight against climate change and its renewed commitment to the Paris Agreement, but *alarmed by* the lack of action and occasionally contradictory actions regarding this expressed support;
- In this light, *noting with concern* initiatives introduced by China, such as the 17+1 Initiative<sup>2</sup>, that create divisions within the EU and that go against the idea of a united and federal Europe;
- *Noting with concern* that each EU Member State prioritises its own bilateral relationship with China, and that the lack of a common EU position leads to divisiveness between EU Member States, weakening the EU in China's favour;
- *Condemning* China's mismanagement of public risk communication about Covid-19, *highlighting* especially China's lack of communication with the World Health Organisation and withholding information about the severity and extent of the disease;
- *Noting with alarm* the lack of animal welfare standards, and a lack of food safety enforcement within the Chinese intensive pork production as well as in small scale markets, as was seen with the outbreak of the SARS-Cov-2 disease.
- *Strongly condemning* the repression of Uighurs and their detention in so-called re-education camps;
- *Condemning* the interference of the Chinese government in Hong Kong, the following oppression of the democratic movement in Hong Kong, and the introduction of the National Security Law undermining previously acquired freedoms under the Basic Law Agreement<sup>3</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> The People's Republic of China will be shortened to China throughout this resolution, and the Republic of China will be shortened to Taiwan.

<sup>2</sup> The 17+1 Initiative (also known as China-CEE) is an initiative by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote business and investment relations between China and 17 countries in Central and Eastern Europe

<sup>3</sup> The 'One Country, Two Systems' principle is enshrined in the Basic Law Agreement, a document equivalent to a constitution for Hong Kong. Further reading about the Basic Law Agreement (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-49633862>) and about the link with the National Security Law (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-52765838>)

- *Noting with alarm* China's increasing aggression in the South Chinese Sea as well as towards Taiwan in public speech and military actions and emphasising in this sense the importance to respect international law and global governance;
  - *Concerned about* breaches of international labour standards defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), such as slave labour or bad working conditions, that are commonplace in China;
  - *Welcoming* the development of new technologies such as 5G and Artificial Intelligence, but *deeply concerned* that this is accompanied by intellectual property rights breaches, security and privacy issues, and human rights attacks and the deployment of these technologies during disinformation campaigns;
  - *Acknowledging* both China's economic importance for the European Union as the EU's second largest trading partner and the importance of the European Union to China as its largest trading partner;
  - *Taking note of* China's Belt and Road Initiative and the investments made in the EU as well as other countries as a part of it;
  - *Acknowledging* the need of an EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment, but *noting* the limited progress made;
  - *Highlighting* the growing importance of civil society in China, for instance in the strong stance Civil Society Organisations are taking in the fight against climate change;
  - *Acknowledging* the distinct structure of the Chinese society and its political system, but *deeply concerned* about growing nationalistic tendencies and *strongly believing* in federalism combined with democracy as the best political structure for diverse societies;
1. *Demands* the European Union and its Member States to stand united and prioritise a common foreign policy position towards China and not let China divide the European Union by for instance the 17+1 Initiative as part of the Belt and Road Initiative and its mask diplomacy during the Covid19 crisis;
  2. *Calls on* the European Union and its Member States to diversify imports and reduce the dependency on Chinese products, especially for strategic goods, such as masks during a healthcare crisis;
  3. *Calls on* the European to increase cooperation and development with China to develop vaccines during the Covid19 crisis and future pandemics;
  4. *Encourages* the European Union to work with the World Health Organisation to develop a strong regulatory framework on safety and hygiene standards for wet markets and animal welfare and *calls on* the European Union to use their economic and political leverage to ensure Chinese compliance to these regulations;
  5. *Calls on* the EU and its Member States to take a strong stance against the violation of human rights in China, and to use their diplomatic, economic and normative power to demand improvement of human rights in the country;
  6. *Urges* the EU and its Member States to take a unanimous and clear position condemning the persecution of Uighurs in Xinjiang province and the existence of so-called re-education camps as a clear violation of Human Rights;
  7. *Demands* that the EU sets up a sanctioning framework to freeze assets and impose travel restrictions for the leaders involved in the Uighur repression and to use economic sanctions where appropriate;

8. *Demands* that all EU Member States automatically grant refugee status to Uighurs fleeing China;
9. *Encourages* the EU and its Member States to build a global consensus and alliances with partners condemning human rights violations to amplify sanctions, especially regarding the Uighur repression;
10. *Urges* the EU and its Member States to take an unanimous and clear position condemning the Chinese and Hong Kong government's reaction to the democratic movement in Hong Kong and use its economic leverage to prevent further restrictions of freedoms;
11. *Demands* the EU to further work towards conflict resolution in the South Chinese Sea with respect to international law, before the situation escalates;
12. *Calls on* the EU and its Member States to develop closer diplomatic relations with Taiwan and investigate options how to integrate it better in global governance institutions as the UN, while simultaneously working on conflict resolution between China and Taiwan;
13. *Calls on* the EU use its economic and diplomatic power to advocate for the ratification of important ILO conventions by China, and to ensure that ILO principles are effectively implemented, especially concerning fundamental rights at work and the elimination of forced labour and child labour;
14. *Urges* the European Union to put security measures in place for new technologies and to strengthen global governance on intellectual property rights and data protection, especially in the development of data-intensive technologies as Artificial Intelligence;
15. *Calls on* the EU to work closer with China and build on common values such as multilateralism and multipolarity to revive multilateral institutions, such as reforming the World Trade Organisation, enhance global rules setting to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and ensure compliance to the existing global rules;
16. *Urges* the EU to partner with China in the pursuit of stronger global rules setting to combat climate change, by going beyond existing rules and standards with highly ambitious countries as well as enforcing existing global agreements such as the Paris Agreement;
17. *Urges* the EU to increase cooperation with China to combat climate change, by intensifying cooperation on research and development of innovative solutions;
18. *Calls on* the EU and its Member States to openly condemn Chinese investments that are counterproductive in the fight against climate change, such as coal power plants in China and its neighbouring countries;
19. *Encourages* the EU to use its economic and diplomatic power to engage in discussions with Chinese diplomats about the damaging effects of certain elements of China's foreign policy in making progress towards the Agenda 2030, such as foreign investments leading to unsustainable debt;
20. Therefore, *urges* the EU to advocate and use its leverage for the full participation of China in the Paris Club, including all Chinese development banks and more specifically the participation of Chinese development banks in the Debt Service Suspension Initiative for poor countries;
21. *Encourages* the EU to further support and develop dialogue with civil society, NGOs, universities, research institutions, business community and the general public in China;

22. *Calls on* JEF Europe to share their experience with advocating for European federalism and to promote federalism as a model when engaging with Chinese Civil Society Organisations.