

The EU's and China's run for Africa? Strategic interests and development objectives in competition

13th Informal Roundtable on China
Tuesday, 9th of October 2012 at 12:30 to 14:30 h.
European Parliament, Room: ASP1E-3

In its European Consensus on Development (2005), good governance, democracy and respect for human rights have been defined as guiding principles of the EU's development policy. An approach which has been reiterated in its new strategy paper "Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change" COM (2011) 637.

Although still the world's largest donor, the EU in the midst of its economic and financial crisis is facing severe challenges in its support to partner countries. Challenges, which compel the EU to seek new partnerships. However, conflicting interests and values have impeded much engagement in the past, particularly in relation to emerging powers such as China.

China adheres to the principles of equality, respect for sovereignty and a "no strings attached approach" which has been enshrined in its first time published white paper on "China's Foreign Aid" (2011). Thus, the political conditionality, which the EU adheres to remains the biggest barrier to substantive cooperation between the EU and China on development aid. Are the different approaches of the EU and China compatible at all? The EU, indeed, puts a lot of emphasis on social infrastructure whereas China firmly believes that development of economic infrastructure alone can contribute to sustainable growth and poverty reduction.

For most recipient countries of aid, China's emergence as a donor and business partner has enhanced their bargaining power. Particularly, China's continued trade in raw commodities with Sub-Sahara Africa has alleviated the impact of the economic crisis on the continent. However, only leading oil and mineral producers in Africa are benefiting from exports to China and show high GDP growth rates. In general, trade imbalances remain high and the lack of transparency in negotiating and implementing business deals provokes criticism in African societies and beyond.

Ahead of the European Development Days (16th to 17th of October 2012), the EU-China Roundtable jointly hosted by the Members of the European Parliament, Elmar Brok, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and Reinhard Bütikofer, BICCS, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, will address crucial questions such as

- how could the EU and China in an effort to seek commonalities, cooperate on African development? Are there chances for joint strategies to ensure mutual benefit for the triangle EU-China-Africa?
- how can the private sector and civil society in African countries be engaged in order to monitor Chinese investments and development assistance?
- will the global economic crisis deepen Sino-African relations and increase the de-linkage of African economies from traditional partners;

Programme:

12:30 Welcome and Introduction

Elmar Brok, MEP, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, European Parliament

Reinhard Bütikofer, MEP, Committee on Industry, Research and Energy; Delegation for relations with the United States, European Parliament

12:45 Panel

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Speakers

- **Liu Lirong**, Ph.D, Associate Professor, Centre for European Studies, Institute of International Studies, Fudan University
- **Prof. Dr. Helmut Asche**, German Institute for Development Evaluation
- **Paulo Camutenha**, Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Angola to the European Union

14:00 Questions and Answers

14:30 End of Event



Registration until Friday, 5 October 2012 at: mned.brussels@kas.de

If you need access to the parliament buildings, please include your **nationality, date of birth, place of residence and passport number** in the registration.