



## EU-China 'strategic partnership' must be made reality

*Foreign Policy Centre hosts Unofficial EU-China Summit in Beijing to set out concrete agenda for joint action*

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The EU and China must turn talk of a 'strategic partnership' into action, by identifying concrete areas for cooperation on pressing global issues, from energy and climate change to weapons proliferation and genocide, according to the Foreign Policy Centre (FPC).

On 18-20 May 2005 the FPC and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), in association with the FPC's partners, Accenture, the Corporation of London and the Centre for European Reform (CER), will host the first **Unofficial EU-China Summit** in Beijing. This aims to create a 'second track' process for discussion and shape a concrete agenda for joint action, in advance of the official EU-China summit due to be held in late 2005 under the UK presidency of the EU.

The conference will bring together former and current European leaders, including **Romano Prodi, Antonia Vitorino** and **Alain Juppé**, with top Chinese political figures as well as business leaders and specialists from both sides. The **Chinese Foreign Minister, Li Zhaoxing**, will address the first session.

Dr Greg Austin, director of research at the FPC, stated: *'By setting in train a new "track two" process, the Unofficial Summit organised by the Foreign Policy Centre and its partners will inject some much-needed dynamism into the relatively compartmented and bureaucratised style of EU-China relations.'*

*'Greater cooperation between the EU and China on urgent global issues, from energy security and non-proliferation to preventing genocide in Darfur, would be both to their own mutual benefit and to the global good.'*

*'EU and Chinese officials must now go beyond the rhetoric to identify specific challenges for urgent collaboration.'*

Conference discussions will focus on five specific areas for action:

- global governance
- global finance
- terrorism and non-proliferation
- energy and raw materials
- trade and technology transfer

NOTES TO EDITORS

**For more information about the Beijing conference or the FPC's work on China, please contact Lucy Ahad on 07950 550 426**

1. The Unofficial EU-China Summit will be held at the Beijing International Hotel on 18-20 May 2005. The FPC will publish a full conference report setting out the agenda for action agreed by the participants.
2. The official conference partners are the Foreign Policy Centre (FPC); the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS); Accenture; the Corporation of London and the Centre for European Reform (CER). The FPC is grateful to the Corporation of London for its sponsorship of travel arrangements for the conference.
3. The FPC programme on 'China and Globalisation' was launched in May 2004 at a seminar with the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and the Chinese Premier, Wen Jiabao. It aims to engage a broader group of actors with new thinking on China's rise and its impact on the international system, as well as examining the effects of globalisation in China. Accenture, the global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company, is the FPC's principal partner on the programme.
4. The conference sessions will draw on previously published FPC work on the EU-China relationship. These include:
  - *The Beijing Consensus* by Joshua Cooper Ramo (May 2004)
  - *Energy and Power in China* by Angie Austin (April 2005)
  - *China Goes Global* by Yongjin Zhang (April 2005)
  - *The 1989 China Arms Ban: Putting Europe's Position to Congress* by Dr Greg Austin (April 2005)

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