



INVITATION TO ONLINE PANEL

What Future for the EU-China Relations in Post-Covid19 World?

The European Union and China have developed diplomatic relations since 1975 and sealed economic ties in 1985. Over time, the two actors have deepened their relationships in a wider range of areas in order to address jointly some of the most pressing global political and security challenges.

The Covid-19 crisis has definitely impacted on the relations between China and the EU. In fact, 2020 was supposed to be a decisive year for the conclusion of the EU-China Investment Treaty, now delayed since the negotiation rounds were cancelled due to the pandemic. Moreover, the pervading international mistrust linked to the battle of narratives, disinformation campaigns, and politics of generosity raises concerns and questions about the future of international relations, particularly between these two powerful actors.

As neither the EU or China can thrive without one another, what should we expect from the future economic and diplomatic relations between these two actors? Will the EU manage to reduce its overdependence on China? Could the EU exert more leverage on China when dealing with human rights, assertive control over Hong Kong, and maritime claims over the South China Sea? And if yes, how? Will the Covid-19 pandemic hamper the continuation of the Belt and Road Initiative? What role should the EU pursue regarding the growing tension between China and the United States?

Vocal Europe cordially invites you to an online panel that will be taking place via Zoom. We would be delighted if you were to accept this invitation and look forward to hearing from you shortly. We remain at your disposal for any further information.

Time: 23 June 2020, 11h00 – 12h30 (Brussels Time)

Output: This panel will be **Recorded** and **Broadcasted**

The Program

11h00

Welcoming Remarks

Maddalena Testa, Researcher, Vocal Europe

11h10

Introduction & Moderation

Stuart Lau, Europe Correspondent, South China Morning Post

11h20

Speakers

Iuliu Winkler (MEP), Vice-Chair of European Parliament's Committee on International Trade; Member of the European Parliament's Delegation to the People's Republic of China

Henri Malosse, Member, European Economic and Social Committee

Tim Rühling, Senior Fellow, Swedish Institute of International Affairs

Richard Ghiasy, Senior Fellow, Leiden Asia Center

12h00

Q&A Session

12h30

End of the Panel