

sef: Stiftung
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Foundation



• **The European Union and China: Partners or Rivals in the World Order of Tomorrow?**

FORUM Frauenkirche Online

09 September 2021, 19.00-20.15 hrs (CEST)

Conference languages

German/English (simultaneous translation)

THE TOPIC

In 2020, China replaced the United States as the EU's most important trade partner. Commercial and trade relations with the People's Republic have become more important than ever not only for the German, but also the European economy. However, in May 2021, the investment agreement between China and the EU has been put on hold after more than seven years of negotiation as a response to Chinese sanctions against several members of the European Parliament—preceded by disagreements over the oppression of the Uyghur minority in China.

The People's Republic of China is not only the most important commercial partner of the EU, but also an important partner when it comes to climate protection. At the same time, China is a rival on the global market and competes for influence in a future world order and its basic rules.

While public debates tend to focus on the differences in the relation between China and the EU, we would like to shed light on the global challenges both partners face and examine possible cooperative solutions. Which global problems are currently most prominent? Do they allow for the identification of common interests? Could it be possible to reach an aligned or even joint approach regarding these common interests, and if so, how? What effect would this kind of cooperation have on the relation between China and the EU? And finally: How and where will the European Union find its place in the future balance of powers between China, USA and the EU?

PROGRAMME

CHAIR

Ariane Reimers

Senior Fellow
Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS)
Correspondent
German broadcasting station ARD, Berlin

19.00 HRS

MUSICAL PRELUDE WITH A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE FRAUENKIRCHE

Samuel Kummer

Organist of the Frauenkirche Dresden

WELCOME

Dr Eva-Maria Zehrer

Head of Department Events
The Saxonian State Agency for Political Education, Dresden

19.05 HRS

DISCUSSION

Reinhard Bütikofer MEP

Chairman of the delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China at the European Parliament, Brussels

Professor Nele Noesselt

Chair, Political Science with a special focus on China/East Asia
University Duisburg/Essen

Professor Jinghan Zeng

Professor for China and International Studies
Director, Lancaster University Confucius Institute, Lancaster

19.55 HRS

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE AUDIENCE

20.15 HRS

MUSICAL FAREWELL

Samuel Kummer

Organist of the Frauenkirche Dresden

SPEAKERS' BIOS



Reinhard Bütikofer MEP

Chairman of the delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China at the European Parliament, Brussels

Reinhard Bütikofer is a Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA). He sits on the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET), where he serves as Greens/EFA foreign affairs spokesperson, and on the Committee on International Trade (INTA) as a substitute member. He is the Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with the People's Republic of China as well as a member of the Delegation to the United States and a substitute member of the ASEAN Delegation. From 2012 to 2019 he was co-chair of the European Green Party (EGP).



Professor Dr Dr Nele Noesselt

Chair, Political Science with a special focus on China/East Asia University Duisburg/Essen

Nele Noesselt is professor of Political Science and Politics of East Asia/China at the Institute of Political Science and the Institute of East Asian Studies (IN-EAST) at the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany. Her research agenda ranges from general issues of comparative politics and domestic governance to world politics and theories of international relations.



Professor Dr Jinghan Zeng

Professor for China and International Studies
Director, Lancaster University Confucius Institute, Lancaster

Jinghan Zeng is a professor in the Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion at Lancaster University where he holds a chair in China and International Studies. His research lies in the field of politics and international relations with a focus on China. He is the author of *Slogan Politics: Understanding Chinese Foreign Policy Concepts* (2020) and *The Chinese Communist Party's Capacity to Rule: Ideology, Legitimacy and Party Cohesion* (2015).