

Rede von Kommissionspräsident Juncker beim Europäischen Trauerakt zu Ehren von Dr. Helmut Kohl, Bundeskanzler a.D. der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und Ehrenbürger Europas

On 23 June 2016 citizens of the United Kingdom (UK) voted to leave the European Union (EU). On 29 March 2017 the UK formally notified the European Council of its intention to leave the EU by...

Over the past 20 years, the European Union has put in place some of the highest common asylum standards in the world. And in the past two years, European migration policy has advanced in leaps and...

'Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.' Robert Schuman 9 May 1950 On 25 March 2017,...

In response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and deliberate destabilisation of a neighbouring sovereign country, the EU has imposed restrictive measures against the Russian Federation. Overview...

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker delivered his annual State of the Union speech at the European Parliament on 14 September 2016, just two days ahead of the informal meeting of 27...

Enlargement is the process whereby countries join the EU. Since it was founded in 1957, the EU has grown from 6 member countries to 28. Any European country that respects the principles of liberty,...

Federica Mogherini to host a meeting with Presidents Vučić and T

Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, will host in Brussels [on Monday morning](#)— following bilateral meetings in the margins of South East

European Cooperation Process (SEECF) Summit in Dubrovnik tonight – an informal meeting between the Presidents Aleksandar Vučić of Serbia and Hashim Thaçi of Kosovo. They will have an exchange of views on the continuation of the dialogue for normalisation of relations between Kosovo and Serbia as well as the broader developments in the Western Balkans region.

Statement by the High Representative/Vice-President Federica Moggi

In view of the deteriorating health and serious condition of Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo, the European Union expects the People's Republic of China to immediately grant him parole on humanitarian grounds and allow him to receive medical assistance at a place of his choosing in China or overseas.

At the same time, we expect China to remove all limitations on the movements of Mr Liu's wife and family members. They must be able to meet and receive visits from whomever they desire, and be able to freely communicate with the outside world.

Statement by the Spokesperson on the decision of the Belarus Supreme Court

The Belarusian Supreme Court has upheld yet another death sentence, this time against Aliaksei Mikhalenia.

The continued application of the death penalty runs counter to Belarus' stated willingness to engage with the international community, including the European Union, on the matter.

The European Union reaffirms its strong opposition to capital punishment and urges Belarus, the only country in Europe still applying capital punishment, to commute the remaining death sentences and to introduce without delay a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its abolition.

10 years since its creation, the EU-China Civil Society Round Table discusses innovation, trade and investment, and social and labour rights

The EU-China [Round Table's fifteenth meeting](#) took place in Beijing from 28 to 30 June 2017, marking 10 years since it was first set up. The theme of the 2-day meeting of delegations from the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the China Economic and Social Council (CESC) was "Partnership for Growth, Civilization of mutual benefit". The main topics of debate were innovation as a driver for economic vitality, trade, investment and social and labour rights, summed up in [a joint statement](#). In addition, both delegations met with Mr Yu Zhengsheng, Member of the Politburo Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and Chairman of the CPPCC.

On behalf of the Chinese government, Mr Yu acknowledged the need for China to tackle the inequalities created as a result of globalisation, and reaffirmed their will to cooperate with the EU in an open, sustainable and rules-based multilateral environment.

Mr **Georges Dassis**, EESC President, reaffirmed that the EU needs China and China needs the EU, and that both the EESC and the China ESC can play a role, as civil society, in making this relation become fully participative.

Stefano Palmieri, EESC Member and rapporteur on social and labour rights said that "The EU and China need to take decisive action to reaffirm the importance of decent jobs and working conditions on the basis of agreed international labour conventions".

"The implementation of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative should contribute to the realization of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, and its Sustainable Development Goals", said **Jonathan Peel**, EESC Member and rapporteur on Trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation, "and should be aligned to the European TEN-T and under the Connectivity Platform".

EESC Member **Antonio Longo** presented his report on Innovation-driven development and economic vitality, focusing on the need for reciprocal conditions for R&I cooperation, and for mutual access to EU and China research programmes for students and researchers.

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The EU-China Civil Society Round Table was established in 2007 following a decision taken by the 9th EU-China Summit in Helsinki. The delegations from

the EESC and its Chinese counterpart, the China Economic and Social Council, meet regularly to discuss topics relating to economic and social issues relevant to both parties. By elaborating reports, discussing them and exchanging ideas, the representatives of the European Economic and Social Committee and the China Economic and Social Council contribute to the development of the overall EU-China relationship, from a civil society perspective.