



Conference European Foreign Policy ASSESSING EU'S ROLE IN THE WORLD

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EU-China Relationship, from cooperation to strategic partnership: issues and evolution.

Abstract

Originated in the post-war context of two contending superpowers, and from the Chinese analysis of the international role which an integrated Europe would eventually play, the relationship between European Union and China has grown first into a multilevel cooperation preconizing an “international axis”, and then into a strategic partnership endorsed by China in 2003. EU Commission has addressed China four Communications (1995, 1998, 2003, 2006), all of them deserving analysis and historical setting; actually, a PCA (Partnership and Cooperation Agreement) is under discussion between the two partners. The various facets, and peculiarities, of the partnership will be diachronically analysed. Despite difficulties, the cooperation has been (and still can be) extended to many issues involving global governance. The axis is likely to enlarge into a triangular interaction, taking into account also the USA, and that would allow, in the mind of Chinese analysts, the enhancement of the potential collaboration.