



“The Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”

Closing remarks

by

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Hamburg Chamber of Commerce

November 24, 2016

Your Excellency Ms. Liu Yandong,

Thank you so much for your excellent speech and for sharing your views on China's economic transition with us.

Your Excellency Ms. Liu Yandong,
Your Excellency Mr. Jyrki Katainen,
dear Minister Dr. Steinmeier,
First Mayor Olaf Scholz,
Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my capacity as Conference Chairman I like to thank Her Excellency Liu Yandong, Vice President Katainen, Minister Steinmeier and First Mayor Scholz for their inspiring speeches which painted a clear picture of the prospects for the relationship between China and Europe.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was at the 5th "Hamburg Summit" 2012 when a wise Chinese friend taught me something about the Chinese culture that I did not forget until this very day.

And that man happened to be the leader of the 2012 CFIE delegation, Mr. Lu Jianzhong.

He told me about the most popular number in China – the lucky number "8" symbolizing good luck, fortune and eternity.

I remembered Mr. Lu Jianzhong's wise words when I prepared this speech.

Therefore I will be using eight sentences to close our Luncheon and this year's 7th "Hamburg Summit".

First:

Ms. Liu Yandong's presence underlines the importance that the Chinese government attaches to our conference that ranks among the top international conferences on China and Europe.

Dear Ms. Liu Yandong, it is our special pleasure that you chose the "Hamburg Summit" as an occasion for visiting Germany and Hamburg for the first time.

Please come back again with more time for us and our city.

Second:

The participation of Mr. Jyrki Katainen, Vice President of the European Commission is a clear sign that Europe is reaching out for China in order to integrate the People's Republic into the framework of a rule-based international order.

I also deeply thank our German Foreign Minister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier who attends the "Hamburg Summit" for the third time underlining that the bilateral German-Chinese relations are closer than ever.

Third:

Our two Chinese co-hosts CFIE and CATIS did a tremendous job in bringing very big and high-ranking delegations to our 7th "Hamburg Summit".

You are truly great partners and we highly appreciate your old and deep friendship and support.

Fourth:

For the second time, the "Hamburg Summit" has invited 30 young leaders from Europe and China to participate in the "Young Leaders' Forum" that took place before and during our conference.

I sincerely thank our partner, the OAV German Asia-Pacific Business Association, for jointly organising this Forum with us and for very actively supporting our conference.

Fifth:

I also like to thank our academic partners, the GIGA Institute of Asian Studies and the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS), for supporting us in a tremendous way.

For the first time, MERICS organized a think tank panel, and I am happy to say that the feedback of the participants was extremely positive.

I would also like to highlight the remarkable support of the Confucius Institute providing our "Hamburg Summit" with cultural performances that foster the mutual understanding between China and Europe even further!

Sixth:

At this year's "Hamburg Summit", we welcomed more than 550 participants.

China literally met Europe during the last two days!

Our conference would be nothing without all the high-ranking speakers and participants who came from different parts of the world to share their knowledge and insights on the EU-China relations with us.

Thank you all for coming!

Seventh:

As a born citizen of Hamburg, it makes me very proud and happy that our city has again proven to be the best location for an event of the calibre of our “Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”.

Hamburg is a positive example of how European and Chinese businesses can cooperate in order to foster innovation and sustainable growth.

China has made remarkable progress, especially in the fields of implementing fuel cell and hydrogen technologies.

In this sense, the Chinese system of encouraging the use of innovative technologies is best practice – also for Europe.

My friend Li Yizhong got to know my fuel cell car, because I used it to drive him from the airport to the Hotel Tuesday evening.

We appreciate, Mrs Vice Premier, your support for a hydrogen infrastructure in your country, with Minister Wang Gang in your cabinet team.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last but not least, here comes sentence number eight:

The seventh “Hamburg Summit” was a great success.

I sincerely hope you enjoyed the discussions, gained new insights and made good contacts.

Referring to the Chinese lucky number 8, I wish you all good luck, strong health and prosperity and I look forward to see you in 2018 for the eighth “Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe” here at the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce.

I am sure it will be a very lucky event!

This was my last Hamburg Summit as chairman because with 80 years of age I like to hand over to younger leaders.

But let us thank now Mrs Corinna Nienstedt and her team for all the good work.

Before I now officially close the conference, I like to invite our guests of honour, Ms. Liu Yandong, Mr. Katainen, Dr. Steinmeier and First Mayor Scholz, to join me for the signing of the Golden Book of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce.

I wish you all a safe journey home – but first of all, enjoy the dessert buffet and coffee that will be served in the adjacent hall.

Goodbye and Zai Jian!