

Governance Issues in China: What Implications for the EU- China dialogue?

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The Beijing Summit

- A big step forward in developing a „maturing partnership“ based on „shared interests“
- Two new policy papers outline the direction of Eu-China relations for the new few years
- While pragmatical progress is obvious, both papers lag behind the the aim of building a maturing partnership.

What is Partnership?

The Commission Policy Paper on China

The basic idea of the EU paper consists of

- Combining the concern for stability and development in China with
- The EU's clear stake in China's successful transition to a „stable, prosperous and open country that fully embraces democracy, free market principles and the rule of law“.

What is Mutual Understanding?

- China speaks of a „mature“ () relationship
- China stresses three principles underlining respect and equality in the partnership
- China seeks support for its political concerns and economic development

A Basic Misunderstanding?

- The EU paper reiterates the position of the early 1990s by hoping for both: „partnership“ and regime change
- The Chinese statement reiterates that economic development is possible without political reform

Political Issues

- **The EU Paper:**

- Global governance
- Political dialogue
Human rights, Korea, Burma, Hong Kong, Macau, illegal migration, trafficking in human beings, arms export, environmental issues
- China's transition to an open society
Rule of law, civil society, human rights: **GOOD GOVERNANCE**

- **The Chinese Paper:**

- International cooperation
- Political dialogue
One China Policy, Hong Kong, Macau, Tibet, human rights
- Rule of Law
- Exchange with European Parties

Governance Issues

- The EU Paper

- Rule of law
- Civil society
- Rights of workers, social security
- Grassroots democracy
- Economic governance
- Regional disparities
- Capacity building of government and administration
- Illegal migration

- The Chinese Paper

- Migrant workers
- Social Security
- Police
- Human resources: civil servants, change of government function
- Assistance in overcoming poverty, solving environmental, health care and educational problems

Talking at Cross-Purposes

- Chinese paper does not use the word „governance“. EU paper uses „governance“ in different places and with different connotations.
- „Good Governance“ is not on China’s EU agenda, but it is on the EU’s China agenda!

What does „Governance“ mean in Chinese?

- „Governance“ is translated by into Chinese
- The word is not commonly used in political discussions, but is used by academics in two different contexts:
 - in the context of civil society
 - in the context of rural administration

Is there a Governance Crisis in China?

- Minxin Pei: China's crisis of governance has three particularly worrisome aspects: the decay of the ruling party, deteriorating state capacity, and rising tensions between regime and society.
- Feng Qu: After years of stability, rural administrations in Modern China are confronted with a real big crisis.

What do these authors understand by good governance?

- Yu Keping: Good governance needs legitimacy, transparency, accountability, rule of law, responsiveness and effectiveness. It is based on the citizens' voluntary cooperation and conscious identification with the authorities. Citizens organize themselves in networks cooperating with the government and taking over responsibilities from the government. Good government does not work without government, but it also does not work without citizens.

Implications for the EU China dialogue

- Talking about „governance“ in China means stressing stability and not system change.
- Stability is not only achieved by economic growth, but also by empowering society as a precondition for good governance.
- Instability in China derives from the state's lacking capacity to cooperate with society.

Raising the EU's profile in China

- Respecting the particularity of the situation in China means inventing particular solution strategies rather than copying models.
- Respecting the particularity of the situation means radically shifting focus from urban to rural society and from state to society.
- Respecting the particularity of the situation and the equality of the partner means shifting from system change to stability.

China's future will be decided upon by the rural population and the state's capacity to negotiate with the rural population on which terms they can join the process of modernization.