

APRIL 2020

*Representing Chinese enterprises in Europe, CCCEU is a responsible bridge-builder for business opportunities*

# CCCEU MONTHLY

## 欧盟中国商会月讯



**Together  
through good  
and difficult times**

p. 4

**Common missions of  
our time and vital ties  
in the global crisis**

p. 10-11

**The EU makes plans  
for its post-COVID-19  
economic recovery**

p. 12

# 45 years of partnership

This issue of the CCCEU Monthly is dedicated to an important date in China-EU relations: on 6 May 1975, the People's Republic of China and the European Community – which became the European Union (EU) in 1992 – established diplomatic relations.

Since that moment, they became partners on various issues but, most importantly, they initiated a story of economic interdependence which is still true and strong nowadays. Since they first established a free trade agreement in 1978, China and the EU have further increased their economic partnership to the point of becoming a key economic partner for each other: China is the EU's biggest source of imports and its second-biggest export market for goods.

After the two joined hands in long-lasting cooperation in trade and investment, not only have they made an important contribution to the global trade in both volume and exchanges, but they also became major actors in international affairs and strong supporters of the multilateral order. For this occasion, the China Chamber of Commerce to the EU (CCCEU) prepared a message, which you can read at page 4: the text is followed by a timeline showing the most important steps and achievements of this 45-year-long partnership (in Chinese).

At page 9 you can read the CCCEU's message for Europe Day, the anniversary on the 9 May dedicated to the European project. In this message, we restate that our members and European partners have a clear and common role to play to help realize the continent's rapid recovery from deep recession, and sustain a golden decade of green, digital and inclusive growth.

On 6 May, other messages for the 45th anniversary of China-EU relations were released: at pages 10 and 11, you can find our summary of the most important ones, in particular those of Ambassador Zhang Ming, Head of the China Mission to the EU, and of Ambassador Nicolas Chapuis, EU Ambassador to China.

It is also true that this 45th anniversary comes at a difficult time for both partners, which are engaged in a fight against a global pandemic. In order to deal with the economic and societal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, in April the EU adopted two roadmaps. On 15 April, the European Commission put forward a European roadmap to phase-out the containment measures due to the coronavirus outbreak. On 23 April, the European Commission and the President of the European Council presented a document entitled "A Roadmap for Recovery: towards a more

resilient, sustainable and fair Europe". Both documents are presented and summed up at page 12.

We wish you a pleasant reading and we welcome your comments and perspective on the topics you find in the next pages.



*On the cover: the Airbus A330-800 delivers medical supplies from China to Europe. Source: Airbus.*

# Contents

- 
- 4 Together through good times, and bad
  - 9 We are together for another victory
  - 10 Common missions of our time
  - 11 Vital ties in the global crisis
  - 12 The European recovery
- 

## *Editorial Team*

Lihong ZHOU  
Xin GUO  
Gene FU  
Yinxing GAO  
Paolo RECALDINI  
Huanyu ZHAO  
Handi SHI

## *About us*

The CCCEU is a platform between China and the European Union, which serves the best interests of Chinese enterprises investing in the EU. Established in August 2018, the CCCEU speaks on behalf of its 60 members and represents up to one thousand Chinese enterprises in the EU.

© CCCEU All rights reserved. Sharing is encouraged

Office 503 A, Rond-Point Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels, Belgium  
+32 2 234 79 12



info@ccceu.eu



fb.com/CCCEUofficial



@CCCEUofficial



China Chamber of Commerce to the EU



# China and EU: together through go

## CCCEU Message on the 45th anniversary of Sino-EU relations

On 6 May 1975, the People's Republic of China and the European Community – which later became the European Union – established diplomatic relations. The times were very different then: the European bloc consisted of fewer than 10 members; and China was a planned economy, with its people among the poorest in the world.

The past four-and-half decades have witnessed two sweeping changes in the world: steady European integration and rapid Chinese development. The EU now consists of 27 countries and is the biggest zone of developed economies. China is the world's second-largest economy and will get rid of absolute poverty this year.

More importantly, the two global players have greatly contributed to the globalization process on all fronts with interdependence becoming a hallmark of the past decades. Two-way investment and trade have increased manifold. With European businesses being warmly welcomed in China and, in recent years, Chinese investment expanding quickly in Europe, China and the EU have supported each other in achieving their own mission of making citizens rich, businesses booming and countries strong. In a nutshell, the openness of both sides has brought each other closer, a legacy the Chinese business community inherited from previous decades.

Obviously, the 45th anniversary comes at a difficult time for both sides, as the world battles the unfolding global pandemic.

Over the past months, it has become clear that cooperation at bilateral and global level is key to counter a major challenge which now affects all worldwide. During the common fight against COVID-19, the EU and China have rushed to support each other with donations and assistance, showing once more that collaboration makes us stronger and that common battles need to be fought together.

On behalf of its members, the CCCEU commends the efforts that China and the EU have made to safeguard their strategic partnership and legacies over these 45 years and the past difficult months.

The private sector looks at the Chinese and European leadership with hope and optimism at this cooperation which has made both sides prosperous and stronger in easier times, and resilient during more demanding circumstances.

When the world is at crossroads, clearer vision, strong determination and political will are crucial. Virus and recession are not the enemy but going backward is.

We are delighted that, amid global difficulties and setback, the leaders of China and EU have repeatedly sent strong message to deepen their partnership while upholding the principles of globalization and multilateralism, safeguarding international cooperation and supporting each other's development agenda.

The Chinese business community in Europe is committed to joining such efforts in translating words into action to further build on the relationship and reap mutual benefits.



Source: China Mission to the EU

# Good times, and bad

## 中国与欧盟：风雨兼程，共创繁荣

### - 欧盟中国商会寄语中欧建交45周年

1975年5月6日，中华人民共和国与欧洲经济共同体（欧盟前身）建立外交关系。那个时代与如今截然不同：欧共体只有不到10个成员国；中国仍实施计划经济，是世界上最贫穷的国家之一。

回顾过去四十五年，世界见证了两个奇迹般的变化：欧洲一体化的稳步推进和中国的高速发展。现在，欧盟成员国发展到27个，是世界上发达经济体最密集的地区；中国则跃升为世界第二大经济体，今年将完全摆脱绝对贫困。

中国一直积极吸引欧洲企业来华发展；近年来，在欧洲的中国投资也迅速增长。双向投资和贸易巨量攀升，这推动着中欧各自实现人民富裕、经济繁荣和国家强大的目标。中欧这两支当今世界的重要力量，在过去几十年形成的相互依存关系，在各个方面为全球化进程做出了巨大贡献，成为时代的标签。

简而言之，开放包容精神使中欧关系更加紧密，且成就了各自奇迹般的发展，这也是中国企业在过去几十年传承的宝贵财富。然而，中欧建交45周年正逢全世界与正在蔓延的新冠疫情大流行作斗争的艰难时刻。

在过去的几个月里，我们清晰地认识到，双边及全球合作对于应对目前影响全世界的重大挑战尤为关键。在共同抗击新冠疫情的战斗中，欧盟和中国迅速通过捐赠和援助的方式相互支持，再次表明了抗疫需要共同行动，合作才能使我们更加强大。

欧盟中国商会及其成员欣赏双方在过去45年以及近几个月的艰难时期为维护战略伙伴关系和合作精神所作的努力。中资企业对中欧领导人推进合作充满乐观和希望，合作使中欧关系在顺利时期保持繁荣昌盛，在困难境遇下迸发活力和韧性。

当前，世界处于十字路口。

清晰的视野、坚定的决心和政治意愿至关重要。疫情和衰退不是敌人，倒退才是我们共同的敌人。令我们感到高兴的是，在全球遭遇困难和挫折的时候，



中欧领导人一再传递强烈的信息，在坚持全球化和多边主义原则的同时，深化伙伴关系，维护国际合作，支持彼此的发展议程。在欧中资企业将共同努力，致力于将合作意愿转化为行动，深化中欧关系，实现互利共赢。

## 中欧建交45年大事记

<b>1975.5.6</b>	中国外交部长乔冠华与到访的欧洲经济共同体（欧盟前身）委员会副主席索姆斯会谈，就中国与欧洲经济共同体建立正式关系达成一致。这一天成为中国与欧共体建交日。
<b>1975.9</b>	中国驻比利时大使李连璧先后向欧共体部长理事会主席、意大利外长鲁莫尔和欧共体委员会主席奥利托递交委任书，兼任中国驻欧洲经济共同体使团团长，成为中国驻欧洲经济共同体的首任正式常驻代表。
<b>1978.4</b>	双方正式签署中欧贸易协定。
<b>1978.9</b>	欧共体委员会副主席哈费尔坎普率团访华，成为中欧建交后首个访华的欧共体高级代表团。
<b>1979.7</b>	首次中欧经贸混委会在北京举行，欧共体决定给予中国最惠国待遇。
<b>1983.10</b>	中国与欧洲煤钢共同体和欧洲原子能共同体分别建立外交关系。
<b>1983.11.1</b>	中国与欧洲共同体正式宣布全面建交。
<b>1984.4</b>	中国外交部长吴学谦与欧共体主席国法国外长谢松等在巴黎举行首次中欧外长级政治磋商。
<b>1985.5</b>	中国与欧洲经济共同体贸易和经济合作协定在布鲁塞尔正式签署。
<b>1988.10</b>	欧共体委员会驻华代表团正式开馆，杜侠都大使成为首任团长。
<b>1994.6</b>	中方向欧共体主席国希腊递交确认中国与欧盟政治对话事的复函及非文件，双方政治对话机制正式启动。
<b>1995.7</b>	欧盟委员会通过旨在全面发展欧盟与中国关系的《欧盟—中国关系长期政策文件》。
<b>1998.3</b>	欧盟委员会公布《与中国建立全面伙伴关系》报告，建议欧盟把对华关系提升至新水平。
<b>1998.4</b>	首次中国—欧盟领导人会晤在伦敦举行。双方发表联合声明，宣布建立面向21世纪长期稳定的建设性伙伴关系，并决定每年举行一次领导人会晤。
<b>1998.12</b>	中欧科技合作协定在布鲁塞尔签署。
<b>2000.7</b>	国务院总理朱镕基访问欧盟总部。

<b>2001.9</b>	第四次中国—欧盟领导人会晤在布鲁塞尔举行，双方决定建立中欧全面伙伴关系。
<b>2002.6</b>	中欧以换函形式重签政治对话协议。
<b>2003.10</b>	第六次中国—欧盟领导人会晤在北京举行，双方决定发展中欧全面战略伙伴关系。中国发表首份对欧盟政策文件。
<b>2004.5</b>	国务院总理温家宝访问欧盟总部。
<b>2005.7</b>	欧盟委员会主席巴罗佐对中国进行正式访问。
<b>2005年底</b>	中欧启动副外长级定期战略对话机制。
<b>2006.10</b>	欧盟委员会发表题为《欧盟与中国：更紧密的伙伴、承担更多责任》的对华政策文件。
<b>2007.11</b>	第十次中欧领导人会晤在北京举行，双方同意成立副总理级的中欧经贸高层对话机制。
<b>2008.4</b>	首次中欧经贸高层对话在北京举行。国务院副总理王岐山和欧盟委员会贸易委员曼德尔森共同主持。
<b>2009.1</b>	国务院总理温家宝访问欧盟总部。
<b>2010.4</b>	中欧双方决定提升战略对话级别。同年9月，国务委员戴秉国与欧盟外交与安全政策高级代表兼欧盟委员会副主席阿什顿女士共同主持首次中欧高级别战略对话。
<b>2011</b>	中欧建交以来第一个主题年“中欧青年交流年”举办。
<b>2012.2</b>	为期一年的大规模人文双边交流活动“中欧文化对话年”在欧盟总部所在地布鲁塞尔启动。
<b>2013.11</b>	国家主席习近平在北京会见来华出席第十六次中国—欧盟领导人会晤的欧洲理事会主席范龙佩和欧盟委员会主席巴罗佐。
<b>2013.11</b>	国务院总理李克强在北京与欧洲理事会主席范龙佩和欧盟委员会主席巴罗佐举行第十六次中国—欧盟领导人会晤，双方共同发表《中欧合作2020战略规划》。
<b>2014.3</b>	国家主席习近平对欧盟总部进行正式访问，同欧洲理事会主席范龙佩、欧盟委员会主席巴罗佐及欧洲议会议长舒尔茨举行会谈、会见，并在欧洲学院发表演讲。这是中国国家主席首次访问欧盟总部。双方领导人就共同打造中欧和平、增长、改革、文明四大伙伴关系达成重要共识。
<b>2014.4</b>	中国政府发表第二份对欧盟政策文件。



<b>2014.11</b>	国家主席习近平在出席二十国集团领导人布里斯班峰会期间，同新任欧盟委员会主席容克举行会晤。
<b>2014.12</b>	国家主席习近平应约同新任欧洲理事会主席图斯克通电话。
<b>2015.6</b>	国务院总理李克强在布鲁塞尔与欧洲理事会主席图斯克、欧盟委员会主席容克共同主持第十七次中国—欧盟领导人会晤。
<b>2016.7</b>	国家主席习近平在北京会见来华出席第十八次中国—欧盟领导人会晤的欧洲理事会主席图斯克和欧盟委员会主席容克。
<b>2016.7</b>	国务院总理李克强在北京与欧洲理事会主席图斯克、欧盟委员会主席容克共同主持第十八次中国—欧盟领导人会晤。
<b>2017</b>	中欧合作举办“中欧蓝色年”。
<b>2017.6</b>	国务院总理李克强在布鲁塞尔与欧洲理事会主席图斯克、欧盟委员会主席容克共同主持第十九次中国—欧盟领导人会晤。
<b>2018</b>	中欧合作举办“中欧旅游年”。
<b>2018.7</b>	国家主席习近平在北京会见来华出席第二十次中国—欧盟领导人会晤的欧洲理事会主席图斯克和欧盟委员会主席容克。
<b>2018.7</b>	国务院总理李克强在北京与欧洲理事会主席图斯克、欧盟委员会主席容克共同主持第二十次中国—欧盟领导人会晤。
<b>2018.12</b>	中国政府发表第三份对欧盟政策文件。
<b>2019.3</b>	国家主席习近平在巴黎同出席中法全球治理论坛闭幕式的法国总统马克龙、德国总理默克尔和欧盟委员会主席容克举行会晤。
<b>2019.3</b>	国务委员兼外交部长王毅在布鲁塞尔同欧盟外交与安全政策高级代表莫盖里尼共同主持第九轮中欧高级别战略对话，并同欧盟国家外长举行首次集体对话。
<b>2019.4</b>	国务院总理李克强在布鲁塞尔与欧洲理事会主席图斯克、欧盟委员会主席容克共同主持第二十一次中国—欧盟领导人会晤。
<b>2019.5</b>	中国与欧盟共同签署《中华人民共和国政府和欧洲联盟民用航空安全协定》和《中华人民共和国政府和欧洲联盟关于航班若干方面的协定》。
<b>2019.11</b>	中国与欧盟共同签署《关于结束中华人民共和国政府与欧洲联盟地理标志保护与合作协定谈判的联合声明》，宣布中欧地理标志保护与合作协定谈判结束。
<b>2019.12</b>	国家主席习近平应约同新任欧洲理事会主席米歇尔通电话。
<b>2020.3</b>	国家主席习近平致电欧洲理事会主席米歇尔和欧盟委员会主席冯德莱恩，就欧盟发生新冠肺炎疫情向欧盟及各成员国人民表示诚挚慰问。



# On Europe Day, we are together for another victory

## CCCEU Message for Europe Day on 9 May

**E**urope Day has been held on 9 May every year for the past seven decades to celebrate peace, unity and prosperity the European project has brought after victory in the second World War.

On this day 70 years ago, Robert Schuman, the then French foreign minister, delivered the historic 'Schuman declaration', rolling out the idea of forging a new form of political cooperation among European countries and to end war on the continent forever. To pay tribute to this visionary politician, a roundabout in Brussels is named Schuman Square and here the buildings of the major European institution are located.

The CCCEU, which represents up to 1,000 businesses in Europe and celebrated its first anniversary on 8 April, feels privileged to set up its office beside the square. Together with our European friends, we commemorate Europe Day at a difficult time as the world battles the unfolding global pandemic.

As European corporate citizens, we know the significance of this peace project for citizens of the 27 EU member states, all Europeans and, indeed, the whole world.

In the 45 years since China and the EU established diplomatic relations, steady European integration and rapid Chinese development have greatly contributed to global peace and prosperity. Two-way investment and trade have increased manifold. With European businesses being warmly welcomed in China and, in recent years, Chinese investment expanding quickly in Europe, China and the EU have supported each other in achieving their mission of making citizens

rich, businesses booming and countries strong.

On Europe Day, the CCCEU chairperson Zhou Lihong says: "The overarching aim of the CCCEU is to contribute to common prosperity while respecting the diversity, which are trademarks of the EU. We value the basic market principle of growing together with European partners." In recent months, the global war against the COVID-19 pandemic has showcased this common spirit. When China was hit by the epidemic, our members and European partners rushed to donate masks and other medical supplies; now that the situation is worsening in Europe, Chinese businesses in Europe have been coordinating to offer all-out help.

We realize that mounting difficulties, unexpected disruptions, and rising uncertainties are changing the already challenging business landscape between China and the EU, which have a combined market of 1.9 billion consumers. Trust in multilateralism and free trade are in the EU's DNA and its commitment to a green and digital transformation is vital in addressing joint challenges. At this historically unprecedented and difficult time, our actions, together with our European partners, matter.

Chinese and European leaders have repeatedly sent a clear message that China and the EU must cooperate to ensure the stability of global supply and value chains to emerge from economic gloom. In marking Europe Day, our members and European partners have a clear and common role to play to help realize the continent's rapid recovery from deep recession, and sustain a golden decade of green, digital and inclusive growth.



The Berlaymont, the HQ of the European Commission, on Schuman Square. Source: CCCEU.

# Common missions of our time

The message by Ambassador Zhang Ming, China's representative to the EU

**A**mbassador Zhang Ming, Head of the China Mission to the EU, wrote a message for the 45th anniversary of China-EU relations, originally published on The Brussels Time and Euractive among the others.

In his message, Ambassador Zhang looks back at the past 45 years which he describes “an extraordinary journey” characterized by “a sound momentum of development”: China and the EU have walked this path together in accordance to their “comprehensive strategic partnership” and have actively engaged in “promoting partnerships for peace, growth, reform and civilization” worldwide. As a result, he sees that “the broadening and deepening of mutually beneficial cooperation could bring about greater opportunities for development of both sides, deliver more benefits to our citizens, and provide more stability to this world of uncertainties.”

The results of this cooperation have been numerous in the past 45 years: bilateral trade is now “worth 300 times as much as that in the early days of [China-EU] diplomatic relations” and “cooperation has expanded to many more areas such as peace and security, environment, science, technology, culture, education and health”. Internationally, China and the EU “are making joint efforts to uphold multilateralism and address global challenges” while maintaining their “shared commitment to robust growth, lasting peace, sustainable innovation, clean environment and cultural diversity”.

Forty-five years on, Ambassador Zhang sees that China and the EU are now facing “shared new missions under the new circumstances”. In particular, he argues that “it is more important than ever to keep the China-EU relations in good shape” in order to find the answers to questions raised by the COVID-19 crisis, in particular “how to keep our economies and societies resilient, how to promote harmonious co-existence between man and nature, and how to steer globalization in the right direction.”

In particular, Ambassador Zhang identifies three key objectives for the future: higher-quality development, closer cooperation, and greater openness. Firstly, we must “make economic



Ambassador Zhang Ming. Source: The Brussels Time

growth less resource-intensive”: since the Chinese economy is moving “from high-speed growth to high-quality development” revolving around technological innovation, digital connectivity and environmental protection, and the EU “is in a twin transition to a green and digital economy”, it is up to these strategic partners to “foster new drivers of cooperation in these areas, which will help improve livelihoods and better protect the planet that we call home”.

Secondly, China and the EU chose to work together in solidarity against the COVID-19 pandemic: this illustrates once again that “we are partners that need each other.” When “address[ing] global challenges such as climate change, unsustainable development, regional and international conflicts,” the international community must overcome differences and engage in cooperation: “as two major forces, China and the EU have the responsibility and capability to take the lead.”

Lastly, despite the COVID-19-triggered thoughts on globalization, “interdependence is not outdated” and “neither decoupling nor self-isolation offers a way out”: “China will not stall its efforts to deepen reform and expand opening-up” and hopes that the EU and other global partners will join in “safeguarding an open environment for global cooperation, upholding the multilateral trading system and keeping global supply chains stable”. Ambassador Zhang also looks forward to concluding the China-EU high-level investment agreement.

# Vital ties in the global crisis

The message by EU Ambassador and the 27 ambassadors of member states



EU Ambassador Nicolas Chapuis. Source: Caixing

**A**mbassador Nicolas Chapuis, Head of the EU Delegation to China, and the ambassadors of the 27 EU member states wrote a joint message to commemorate the 45th anniversary of China-EU relations, which was originally published on China Daily.

In the view of EU Ambassador Chapuis and the 27 national ambassadors, this anniversary is “an important milestone in an ever more important relationship between our union of 27 European states and China”. When this relationship began, “the EU was made up of just nine member states” and “China was only beginning to open up and had yet to undergo its formidable economic transformation”. Much has changed since then: bilateral trade was once minuscule but now “the EU and China engage in 1.8 billion euros of trade per day with each other”.

This cooperation has expanded to more areas than ever before, “including political, economic, financial, scientific, educational and cultural”. The EU and China “both have obvious shared interests in the peaceful resolution of global conflicts, climate change mitigation, sustainable development, food and energy security, nuclear non-proliferation and social justice.” They are key supporters of multilateralism and they share “a common aspiration to bring [their] relationship to an even more productive level in the years to come, as connectivity increases between Europe and Asia.” The partnership has also become

mature and strong to the point that the two exchange viewpoints and have frank discussion on their differences.

The year 2020 “had been hailed as a crucial one for EU-China relations, with numerous high-level meetings aimed at deepening EU-China cooperation” but the COVID-19 pandemic obliged the EU and China to put their pre-existing plans temporarily side-tracked, as both the EU and China are fully mobilized to tackle this “challenge of truly global proportions”. Yet, the annual EU-China summit is being rescheduled and plans for the September EU-China summit in Leipzig are on track.

The COVID-19 pandemic will reshape our world. In order to manage the crisis and its consequences on Europe and globally, the EU is “developing a common international approach to fight the pandemic, and to assist the most vulnerable, not least those in developing countries and conflict zones” and launched the Coronavirus Global Response Summit to raise billions of euros for vaccine research, in which China also participated.

At different stages of the pandemic, there has been reciprocal assistance. The EU supported China at the beginning of 2020, and now China is returning that support when Europe is in a time of need: “that is how true partners act”, says the message. After the virus is beaten, the EU and China shall “join forces to forge a global economic recovery” and “the best way to accelerate the economic recovery is to expand trade”: the ambassadors look forward to a swift conclusion of the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment, because “we will need more trade and investment on both sides.”

“But let’s also cooperate to make this a green recovery”, add the ambassadors. “A close partnership between China and the EU is key in making global climate efforts successful” and we “need to work closely together to foster new opportunities to promote green and sustainable solutions”, for instance investing in clean energy technology and infrastructure and strengthening research cooperation on climate change.



# The European recovery

## The EU reveals its plans for the post-COVID-19 recovery

April was an intense month for everyone, due to the ongoing pandemic and the related economic shock which all economies suffered. In Brussels, April was a key month for the discussions on the solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic and on the recovery which will follow. The outlook for the first quarter was not positive, as both the International Monetary Fund and Eurostat, the European Statistical Office, reported a sensible growth spike, with negative growth levels bigger than those reached during the early stages of the 2008 economic crisis.

In order to deal with the economic and societal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU institutions prepared and adopted two roadmaps in April. On 15 April, the European Commission put forward a European roadmap to phase-out the containment measures due to the coronavirus outbreak. On 23 April, the European Commission and the President of the European Council presented a document entitled “A Roadmap for Recovery: towards a more resilient, sustainable and fair Europe”.

### **The Roadmap to phase out the lockdown measures**

The restrictive measures introduced at national level proved necessary to delay the spread of the epidemic and alleviate pressure on health care systems: over the past months, all EU member states adopted different measure to reduce the mobility of citizens in order to contain the spread of the virus. As the document shows, all member states have prohibited public gatherings, introduced travel restrictions, and suspended school activities either totally or partially. In addition, more than half of the EU member states proclaimed a state of emergency due to public health concerns, which allows them to take additional measures in a timely manner.

The Roadmap provides member states with three sets of criteria to assess whether it is time to relax the confinement rules: epidemiological criteria showing that the spread of the disease has significantly decreased and stabilised for a sustained period of time; sufficient health system capacity; and appropriate monitoring capacity,

including large-scale testing capacity. Nonetheless, these criteria are only recommended to members state: since health is mostly a national competence, it is up to the Member States to decide at what level compliance with the criteria above should be assessed.

The Roadmap also provides three basic guiding principles for easing the lockdown measures:

- Action should be based on science and have public health at its centre;
- Action should be coordinated between member states;
- Respect and solidarity between member states remains essential.

Finally, the Roadmap explores accompanying measures, which shall help in the risk assessment, such as gathering data and developing a robust system of reporting, or creating a framework for contact tracing and warning with the use of mobile apps.

Then, the Roadmap also includes a list of recommendations to properly phase out the lockdown so that a second wave can be avoided or at least contained. Yet, although it provides common principles and recommendations, the Roadmap has been criticized because it fails to set concrete coordination among the different measures which will be undertaken to lift the lockdown, and it does not provided for a concrete time framework for member states to adhere to.

### **The Roadmap for Recovery**

The Joint Roadmap for Recovery opens with a list of principles which shall guide the actions for the economic recovery. They are:

- since the shock of the pandemic is symmetric, it is important to avoid an asymmetric recovery: the EU's recovery plan must be based on solidarity, cohesion and convergence, so that a level playing field for all is ensured.
- as the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, the recovery approach must be flexible and agile in order to evolve over time as needed.





The President of the European Council, Charles Michel (left), and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen (right), present the Roadmap for the phase out of the lockdown measures. Source: European Commission

- the recovery must be inclusive and co-owned at all level and by all sectors, thus bringing together national administrations, businesses, civil society, regions, and other stakeholders, in full respect of the principle of subsidiarity.

- the fundamental EU values and rights must be upheld at all times, alongside the full respect of the rule of law.

After presenting these four basic principles, the Roadmap also defines four key areas for action: a fully functioning Single Market, to ensure prosperity and resilience of the European continent; an unprecedented investment effort, crossing all the EU policies; acting globally with international partners to fight the COVID-19 pandemic; and a functioning EU system of governance, to fight this and future pandemics.

Overall, the document lays the foundations for the actions to be implemented in the upcoming months, but it does not contain any specifics about the implementation of these principles and key areas. Although the leadership at both EU and national level agreed on the Recovery Plan and the principles thereof, the concrete form it will take and

the financing measures to be adopted are still to be decided. May will be the month where the first measures in this regard will be decided.

In the meanwhile the European Commission also released its Economic Forecast for Spring 2020, which shows that COVID-19 caused a deep and uneven recession, and an uncertain recovery after it. The document starts by saying that the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically altered the outlook for the European economy: the EU GDP is expected to contract by 7½% this year, far deeper than in 2009 during the Global Financial crisis.

More worryingly, the EU GDP is expected to rebound by only 6% in 2021. Complexity is added by the fact that the COVID-19 crisis is a symmetric shock hurting all members states, but the impact of the crisis and the recovery is set to be uneven in different states. Also, due to the strong interdependencies, an incomplete recovery in one country would spill over and dampen economic growth everywhere. As a result, the recovery is expected to be incomplete and asymmetric in member states.

*We look at the Chinese and European leadership with hope and optimism: this cooperation has made both sides prosperous and stronger in easier times, and resilient during more demanding circumstances.*



Bank of China (Luxembourg) S.A. | China Three Gorges (Europe) S.A. | COSCO Shipping (Europe) GmbH | China Railway Group Limited Hungarian Commercial Representative Office | China Mediterranean Holding (CMH) SAS | China Merchants (Luxembourg) S.a.r.l. | CCIC Europe B.V. | China Southern Power Grid International Co., Ltd. | The Export-Import Bank of China, Paris Branch | China Construction Bank (Europe) S.A. | Agricultural Bank of China (Luxembourg) Co., Ltd. | China Everbright Bank (Europe) S.A. | China Unicom (Europe) Operation Limited | Minmentals Germany GMBH | Huawei Belgium N.V. | ZTE Corporation | Geely Auto Group | China General Technology Group Holding Co., Ltd (EURO) | BGI Group | Taier Heavy Industry Co., Ltd. | Iflytek Co., Ltd. | United Investment Europe S.A. | Datong Reciprocity Group | Groupe du Louvre | Energetic Lighting Europe N.V. | COMPO GmbH | Outlet China Co., Ltd. | Westlake Europe BVBA | Lingang Overseas Zeebrugge Modern Industrial Park Development Company | Sunward Europe Heavy Industry N.V. | Association of Chinese Enterprises in Austria | Portuguese Chinese Enterprise Association | Association of Chinese Enterprises in Belgium and Luxembourg | Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Sweden | Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Denmark | Association of Chinese Enterprises in Italy | Association of Chinese Investment Enterprises in the Netherlands | Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Spain | Chinese Enterprises Association in Finland | China Chamber of Commerce in Slovenia | Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in France | Association of Chinese Enterprises in the Czech Republic | Polish-Chinese General Chamber of Commerce | Association of Chinese Enterprises in Ireland | Association of Chinese Enterprises in Croatia | Association of Chinese Enterprises in Hungary | Association of Chinese Enterprises in Greece | China Chamber of Commerce in Germany | Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Europe) S.A. | YC Europe-China One Belt One Road Products Trade Center (Cyprus) Public Ltd. | China Chamber of Commerce in Lithuania | BYD Europe B.V. | Legend Holdings Corporation | North China Power Engineering Co., Ltd. of China Power Engineering Consulting Group | China Railway Group Limited | Xinhuanet Europe B.V. | Co-progress Education Investment Company | Southern Media Europe SA | Wonderful Technology Development (Tianjin) Group, Ltd. | Xiamen Torch Group, Ltd. | Unisound AI Technology Co., Ltd.