

Monthly Roundup: U.K.-China announcements by government, partners, and other stakeholders

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**Please see our separate briefing on President Xi Jinping’s state visit to the U.K. for full coverage of the major announcements*

China announces its intention to contribute to Investment Plan for Europe

At the High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue in Beijing, China announced its intention to contribute to the European Commission’s €315 billion Investment Plan for Europe. China is the first non-E.U. country to announce its contribution to the Plan. As well as this announcement, the two sides agreed to set up a joint working group to increase cooperation between the E.U. and China on all aspects of investment. The working group will include experts from China’s Silk Road Fund, the Commission, and the European Investment Bank (EIB). The EIB, the Commission’s strategic partner in the Investment Plan, was also represented at the High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue in Beijing. The European Commission and the Chinese government also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the E.U.-China Connectivity Platform to enhance synergies between China’s “One Belt One Road” initiative and the E.U.’s connectivity initiatives such as the Trans-European Transport Network policy. The Platform will promote cooperation in areas such as infrastructure, equipment, technologies, and standards. This will create multiple business opportunities and promote employment, growth, and development for both sides, and it will be done in cooperation with the EIB. Finally, the E.U. encouraged deepened collaboration between China and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), including the examination of a possible



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Guy Dru Drury – Chief Representative – Beijing Office
DL: 00 86 10 85253100 DF: 00 86 10 85253116 E: guydd@cbi.org.uk

1006B, 10F, China Life Tower, 16 Chaoyangmenwai Ave.
Beijing 100020 CHINA
www.cbi.org.uk

Director-General: John Gridland President: Sir Mike Rake

membership in the EBRD in line with its rules. (October) Read more [here](#).

Chinese Ambassador to U.K. visits BBC headquarters

Chinese Ambassador to the U.K. Liu Xiaoming visited BBC headquarters, where he had talks with more than 20 veteran media professionals, including BBC's Director of News and Current Affairs, James Harding, editors and reporters covering the Royal Family, foreign affairs, domestic news, world affairs, and China and Asia, and the heads of a number of important programmes and websites, such as BBC News at Six, BBC News at Ten, and Today on BBC Radio 4. In particular, Ambassador Liu discussed President Xi Jinping's state visit to U.K. as well as Sino-U.K. relations, economic and trade cooperation, people-to-people exchanges, China-E.U. relations, and U.K.-E.U. relations. (October) Read more [here](#).



Chinese modern dance *Genesis* debuts in London

Genesis, a modern dance produced by Yabin Studio, debuted at Sadler's Wells Theatre in London. Madame Hu Pinghua, the wife of Chinese Ambassador to the U.K. Liu Xiaoming, was invited to watch the performance. As one of the programmes of the China Season of the 2015 China-U.K. Year of Cultural Exchange, the dance was created by Wang Yabin with the famous Belgian choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. It represents a successful attempt by Chinese dancers and international choreographers to cooperate in the creation, production, and performance on the international stage. Following the performance at Sadler's Wells Theatre, Madame Hu met with the artists and congratulated them on their contributions to the Year of Cultural Exchange. (September) Read more [here](#).



"Dreams of Europe and China" Children's Art Exhibition held in Gansu province



On 23 October, the “Dreams of Europe and China” Children’s Art Exhibition was held at the Cultural Centre of Baiyin City in Gansu province. Jointly organised by the Delegation of the European Union to China, the magazine World and China, the Baiyin Municipal Propaganda Department, and the Baiyin City Department of Cultural Affairs, the children’s art exhibition has now reached two Chinese cities following its debut in July at Chaoyang Park in Beijing. (October) Read more [here](#).

E.U. and China sign key partnership on 5G

The E.U. and China signed a milestone agreement in the global race to develop 5G networks during the E.U.-China High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue in Beijing. Under this Declaration, the E.U. and China will strengthen cooperation to:

- reach a global understanding, by the end of 2015, on the concept, basic functionalities, key technologies, and time plan for 5G
- explore possibilities in cooperating and implementing joint research actions in the area of 5G and to facilitate bilateral participation of enterprises in 5G research projects in China and the E.U.
- jointly promote global standardisation for 5G, in support of ongoing standardisation work in relevant organisations such as the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- cooperate in facilitating the identification of the most promising radio frequency bands to meet the new spectrum requirements for 5G
- explore jointly the possibilities for cooperative research on the services and applications for 5G, especially in the area of the Internet of Things (IoT)

Both parties are committed to reciprocity and openness in terms of access to 5G networks research funding, market access, as well as in membership of Chinese and E.U. 5G associations. This joint declaration builds on similar agreements with South Korea and Japan signed with the Commission in recent months. (October) Read more [here](#).

European Commission signs best practices cooperation framework with China

The European Commission’s competition department and China’s Ministry of Commerce signed a best practices cooperation framework on reviewing mergers. The practical guidance document creates a dedicated framework to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the Commission and China’s Ministry of Commerce. Cooperation between competition authorities increases the efficiency of investigations and reduces the burden on the merging parties, in particular when authorities are able to share information and to discuss timetables at key stages of investigations with each other and with the merging companies. The guidance will facilitate communication throughout the entire merger review procedure on issues of procedure and substance, including the definition of relevant markets, theories of harm, competitive impact assessments and remedies. The signing of the guidance document reflects the ambition of enhanced cooperation on competition matters between the EU and China. (October) Read more [here](#).

International Symposium marks 30th Anniversary of EPO-SIPO Cooperation

The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC) participated in and co-sponsored the International Symposium to mark the 30th Anniversary of EPO (European Patent Office) – SIPO (State Intellectual Property Office) Cooperation that took place on 09 October in Lyon. The EPO and SIPO looked back at the last 30 years of joint projects and achievements and EPO President Benoit Battistelli and SIPO Commissioner Shen Changyu, who both attended, confirmed the strong links between the respective organisations and the European and Chinese patent systems. They confirmed their commitment to continuing future cooperation, as the Chinese patent system was advancing towards the 4th material amendment since its inception and as both China and the E.U. were continuing on their respective paths of innovation. (October) Read more [here](#).

Magna Carta arrives in China for first time

To mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, an original edition from Hereford Cathedral embarked on a world tour and arrived for the first time in history in China for two weeks of exhibits and special events across three major cities—Beijing, Guangzhou, and Shanghai. Over the course of the next three months, the iconic document, along with the only surviving letter sent by King John from Runnymede in 1215, will pass through seven countries and across three continents, travelling a total of approximately 65,000 miles, with thanks to official airline partner British Airways. The China tour provided the first ever opportunity for thousands of members of the public to see the document up close, alongside a number of Chinese treasures. Special events also brought together British and Chinese historians and experts to discuss the modern day significance of the Magna Carta as an internationally recognised symbol of the rule of law and its impact on common law systems across the world. (October) Read more [here](#).



Prime Minister announces significant changes to visitor visas for Chinese tourists

U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron announced that, from January 2016, new visitor visas for tourists from China will be valid in the U.K. for two years—four times the usual six-month limit for a standard visitor visa—bringing significant benefits to the U.K. economy. The Prime Minister also announced his intention to go further with plans for a new 10-year multi-entry visa for Chinese tourists at no extra cost. The new multiple entry visitor visa arrangements being piloted for Chinese visitors will offer significantly better value in both cost and convenience as the U.K. mobile fingerprinting service to capture the biometrics needed for visa applications is extended from nine Chinese cities to 50—making it far easier to apply for a U.K. visa. The government is also discussing with the Chinese government the potential to expand the existing U.K. network of 12 Visa Application Centres—already more than any other EU country. The changes amount to a much better deal than the standard Schengen visitor visa, which is limited to a maximum 90 days, and puts the U.K. on a par with the 2014 U.S. offer. Chinese tourists currently contribute £500 million annually to the U.K. economy, with record numbers visiting the U.K. to make the most of all the retail opportunities and visitor attractions on offer—up 35% between April and June this year compared to the same period in 2014, according to latest figures from VisitBritain. Overall, visit visas to Chinese nationals have almost trebled over the last 5 years from 115,000 in 2009 to 336,000 in 2014, with spending

increased by 326%. With every Chinese visitor spending on average £2,688 every time they visit, the extension of the visitor visa will enable them to maximise their spending power even further. Overall inbound tourism, one of its fastest growing services, was worth more than £26 billion to the U.K. economy in 2013, so the benefits of increasing Chinese tourism can also be seen in job creation where, for example, every 22 additional Chinese visitors create an additional job in the sector. (October) Read more [here](#).

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For inputs or comments, please contact our Beijing office:

Guy Dru Drury (Chief Representative): Guy.DruDrury@cbi.org.uk

Ben Cooper (Policy Analyst): Ben.Cooper@cbi.org.uk