



## Europe-China Knowledge Forum Conference (ECKF)

### ReConnect China Dialog:

#### Bridging Gaps, Charting Futures with Europe

**Description:**

“ReConnect China Dialog: Bridging Gaps, Charting Futures with Europe” assembles a multidimensional perspective of the dynamic relationship between Europe and China. It will cover four themes: science and technology, trade and economy, China’s domestic governance, and China’s foreign policy. In the realm of science and technology, we will explore the interplay of EU research collaborations, dive into the vibrant start up ecosystems that foster tech entrepreneurship, and spotlight the bridges being built in S&T cooperation. The economic spectrum will cover sustainable trade practices, technological innovation, and the challenges of bilateral economic ties. Delving into China’s domestic policy, discussions will elucidate the EU-China relationship’s challenges, economic performance legitimization, and the intricacies of media and information. On the global front, the conference will dissect China’s climate change stance, power dynamics in international relations, and its evolving narrative in global aid.

**Format:**

- **Date:** 24th-26<sup>th</sup> of October, 2024
- **Place:** VSpa Horel Riia 2, Tartu, Estonia
- **Proposed panel topics:** international relations, China’s domestic policy, science and technology, trade and economy
- **Structure of the program:** 3 days, parallel panels and key-notes; each panel has 1 moderator and 3-4 panel discussants; time schedule is local Estonian time
- **Moderators, panel discussants, and participants:** high-level scientists, policymakers, and economists; 150-180 participants (invitations- only);
- **Costs:** no conference fee; travel expenses of moderators, keynotes, and panelists will be covered; participants’ expenses are not covered.



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# RECONNECT

Day 1, Oct 24<sup>th</sup>

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14.00	<a href="#">Tartu city tour</a> for speakers and registered participants (who arrived earlier)
16.00	Conference registration and welcome coffee
17.00	<b>Opening words</b>
	<b>Introduction</b> <i>Conference moderator TBA</i>
17.30	<b>Keynote speech: China as a competitor</b>
	<b>Introductory panel discussion (<i>interconnection with Day 3</i>):</b> <i>"EU's de-risking approach towards China"</i>  The panel provides a general introduction to the conference and addresses the question of the current status of connections (economic, political and scientific) between the EU and China. This is meant to prepare for day 3, when speakers address the question on how to ReConnect with China given the present status of the ties.
18.45	Transfer to <b>networking reception</b>
19.00	<b>Welcome words and networking reception</b>
20.00	<b>Night owl session:</b> <i>"Looking into the future: How to ReConnect China while de-risking?"</i>  <i>Description: This panel focuses on the major dimensions of reconnection — science, economy, and foreign relations — and inspects the ways of reconnection or connection in each dimension.</i>

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Day 2, Oct 25<sup>th</sup>

9.00	<p><b>Panel discussion China’s Foreign Policy</b> “China as a partner? Climate Change as a Field of Collaboration and Competition between EU and China”</p> <p><i>Description: the panel discussion delves into the dynamics of climate change as a field of competition and collaboration between the European Union and China. Our expert panellists will explore the complexities of this global challenge and the opportunities for cooperation that may shape the future of sustainable development.</i></p>
10.30	Coffee break
11.00	<p><b>3 Parallel Panel Discussions:</b></p> <p><b>1. Panel discussion China’s Science and Technology</b> “China’s influence on EU research collaborations and academic freedom”</p> <p><i>Description: the panel explores the evolving landscape of scientific cooperation, technology transfers, and academic autonomy in the context of EU-China relations.</i></p> <p><b>2. Panel discussion China’s Trade and Economy</b> “Navigating Bilateral Economic Relations: Opportunities and Challenges in EU-China Trade”</p> <p><i>Description: the panel is organized in partnership with Estonia-Asia Enterprise (EAS) and focus on the real business ties between EU companies operating in China</i></p> <p><b>3. Panel discussion China’s Domestic Policy</b> “Media, Propaganda, and Disinformation”</p> <p><i>Description: the panel discussion delves into the complex landscape of asymmetry of information, including its reliability and disinformation. It will explore the pressing issues of how the EU navigates its relationship with China in light of these data limitations, examining strategies for informed decision-making, fostering transparency, and addressing the evolving information environment in the context of China-EU relations.</i></p>
12.30	Lunch
14.00	<p><b>3 Parallel Panel Discussions:</b></p> <p><b>1. Panel discussion China’s Science and Technology</b> “ReConnecting Dual-Use Technologies in Trade and National Security”</p> <p><i>Description: the panel combines real cases from business and scientific knowledge on how to combine technological and political issues on the topic of duality of the technology application between EU and China companies.</i></p>



**2. Panel discussion China's Trade and Economy** *"Sustainable Trade and Economic Integration: Environmental and Social Considerations in EU-China Relations"*

*Description: the panel explores green trade, renewable energy cooperation, sustainable supply chains, and social responsibility. Discussions might also explore the role of environmental regulations, carbon neutrality commitments, and the potential for collaboration in addressing global challenges like climate change. The aim would be to uncover ways in which economic integration can align with ecological and social goals.*

**3. Panel discussion China's Domestic Policy** *"Perception and Reality: Understanding the EU Through the Lens of Chinese Propaganda"*

*Description: the panel discussion explores the ways in which the European Union and other political entities are portrayed within the Chinese propaganda system. It aims to unravel the narratives, strategies, and motives behind these narratives.*

15.30

Coffee break

16.00

**Panel discussion China's Foreign Policy** *"China as Systemic Rival: Great Power Competition in China's Global Relations"*

*Description: this panel discussion focus on China's foreign policy promoting a multipolar world and seeking to shift away from American dominance. The panelists shed some light on how such strategy is received in such regions as the Global South, EU, and notably its implication for Taiwan.*

19.30

Conference dinner



9.00	<p><b>4 Parallel Panel Discussions:</b></p> <p><b>1. Panel discussion China’s Science and Technology</b> <i>“De-risking Artificial Intelligence: Convergences and Divergences between the EU and China on Regulating AI”</i></p> <p><i>Description: the panel will focus on how risks and opportunities of Artificial Intelligence (AI) are understood and arbitrated in the EU and China, with a view to better understanding sources of friction, but also areas of policy overlap and whether enhancing cooperation is possible.</i></p> <p><b>2. Panel discussion China’s Trade and Economy</b> <i>“Innovation, Technology, and Future Economic Landscapes: EU-China Collaboration”</i></p> <p><i>Description: the panel explores digital trade, and the potential of joint ventures in emerging sectors like artificial intelligence and biotechnology, high-skilled labour migration, and related security risks.</i></p> <p><b>3. Panel discussion China’s Domestic Policy</b> <i>“Performance Legitimization and Economic Excellence”</i></p> <p><i>Description: the panel explores the interplay between performance legitimization and the nation's economic dis/ achievements. The panel discusses China's strategies for maintaining political stability and bolstering its global influence through effective governance and economic excellence.</i></p> <p><b>4. Panel discussion China’s Foreign Policy</b> <i>“Unravelling Narratives: China's Approach to Aid in the Global South”</i></p> <p><i>Description: this panel delves into the multifaceted narratives that surround China's foreign aid endeavours in the Global South. Our panellists will analyse the contrasting stories, from infrastructure development to humanitarian assistance, and provide insights into how these narratives impact international perceptions of China's global role.</i></p>
10.30	Coffee break
11.00	<p><b>Concluding panel discussion (interconnection with Day 1)</b></p> <p><i>Navigating Uncertainty: Exploring Pathways in EU-China Dynamics”</i></p>
12.30	<b>Concluding Remarks</b>
13.00	Farewell lunch

