

# **ASIA & EUROPE**

## **In search for a balance between challenges and opportunities**

*Milan, 22 and 23 March 2018  
ISPI, Palazzo Clerici (via Clerici 5)*

Since the start of the current U.S. Presidency, the Asia-Pacific region has been undergoing what could become a serious reshuffling of both strategic and geo-economic alliances in the continent. The unpredictability of Trump's positions with regards to U.S. engagement in the region, together with the withdrawal from the previous ambitious attempts to change geo-economic alliances in the area – the TPP – is leaving regional powers with too many uncertainties. Established economic powers such as Japan and South Korea, together with regional powers such as India, are being increasingly confronted with the rising influence of China, both as an exporter and as an investor in the region and in the rest of the world. The Chinese model of regional and international expansion poses new challenges to regional integration and development and forces Asian countries to rethink their economic partnerships not only within the region but also with key world actors, such as Europe and the US. This is also likely to affect the future developments of bilateral relations between the European Union (EU) and individual Asian countries.

Against this background, this initiative aims at analysing and debating the current shift in economic power in Asia and its impact on Europe, including Chinese investment in Europe, and political reactions both at the EU level and in selected European member states, including Italy.

How should Europe respond to the growing presence of Chinese capital in European sectors? How to deal with the renewed attention to disparities in market access between Europe and China? Finally, how can Europe-Asia economic relations be (re)designed in order to scale-up cooperation? Recently, Italy has somehow been at the forefront of EU-China relations both as an attractive destination for investment and as a possible model for improved trade relations: which lessons and inspiration for policy actions?

## Programme

### DAY 1 – 22 March 2018

5.30-7.00pm Roundtable open to the public **"WHO'S AFRAID OF THE DRAGON? CHALLENGES FROM CHINA'S ECONOMIC RISE IN EUROPE"**

- **Alessia AMIGHINI**, Co-Head, Asia Center, Italian Institute for International Political Studies – ISPI, Italy
- **Youjun CHEN**, Senior Research Fellow, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies – SIIS, China
- **Salvatore CICU**, Member of the Committee on International Trade, European Parliament
- **Stefano MICHELI**, Partner, BonelliErede, Italy
- **Alessandro SPADA**, Acting Vice President for Medium-Sized Enterprises, Assolombarda Confindustria Milano Monza e Brianza, Italy
- **Takashi TERADA**, Professor of International Relations, Doshisha University, Japan

*Working languages: Italian and English*

### DAY 1 – 22 March 2018

7.30-9.00pm Closed-door Roundtable with buffet dinner\*

*Roundtable among experts to discuss the future scenarios for EU-China relations as regards openness to bilateral investment flows.*

Chair: **Carlo SECCHI**, Vice President, Italian Institute for International Political Studies – ISPI, Italy

Keynote speaker: **Stephen WOOLCOCK**, Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

### DAY 2 – 23 March 2018

9.30-11.10am Closed-door Workshop\* **"HOW TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC COOPERATION?"**

*China's interest in investing in Europe is on the rise, due to geo-economic reasons related to Chinese economic diversification. How is Asia looking at Europe as an economic space, and vice versa? What roles do political and economic actors in both regions play, and what are the current and future prospects for bilateral and multilateral relations?*

*Kick-off Speakers:*

- **Axel BERKOFISKY**, Co-Head, Asia Center, Italian Institute for International Political Studies – ISPI, Italy
- **Peter CHASE**, Senior Fellow, The German Marshall Fund, Belgium
- **Youjun CHEN**, Senior Research Fellow, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies – SIIS, China
- **Massimo GAIANI**, Director General for Globalisation and Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy
- **Shada ISLAM**, Director of Europe and Geopolitics, Friends of Europe, Belgium

- **Jayshree SENGUPTA**, Senior Fellow (Associate), Observer Research Foundation - ORF, India
- **Takashi TERADA**, Professor of International Relations, Doshisha University, Japan
- **Rod WYE**, Associate Fellow, Asia Programme, Chatham House, UK
- **Lay Hwee YEO**, Council Secretary and Senior Research Fellow, Singapore Institute of International Affairs – SIIA; Director, European Union Center, Singapore

*Debate with all participants*

11.10-11.30am Coffee-break

11.30am-1.00pm Closed-door Workshop\* **"RECIPROCITY AND INVESTMENT FOR A BALANCED RELATION "**

*Since the turn of the century, economic, trade and investment relations between Asia and Europe have seen a dramatic rise of China as a major player and are growing increasingly imbalanced. The EU and China are now the major trade partner for one another, despite the lack of a bilateral agreement, but the EU has good relations with a vast number of Asian countries that can be otherwise impacted by the burgeoning share of China in Euro-Asian relations. Recently, the EU has proposed new anti-dumping rules that would allow EU members to continue charging high and even higher import duties on countries that adopt "significant market distortions".*

*Kick-off Speakers:*

- **Alessia AMIGHINI**, Co-Head, Asia Center, Italian Institute for International Political Studies – ISPI, Italy
- **Francesco GALIETTI**, CEO, Policy Sonar, Italy
- **Zhenyu HU**, Director, Sustainable Development and Blue Economy Institute, China Development Institute – CDI, China
- **Hyung-Gon JEONG**, Vice President, Department of Northeast Asian Economies, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy – KIEP, South Korea
- **Anbumozhi VENKATACHALAM**, Senior Energy Economist, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia – ERIA, Indonesia
- **Yorizumi WATANABE**, Professor of International Political Economy, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University, Japan
- **Stephen WOOLCOCK**, Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

*Debate with all participants*

1.00-1.10pm Closing Remarks

1.10-2.30pm Buffet Lunch