

Cabinet Newsletter

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Dear Reader,

Last week, I travelled on behalf of Vice President Tajani to Beijing for a crucial mission to re-establish cooperation with China in the area of GNSS whilst widening the scope of EU-China relationships in the field of Space.



Antonio Preto
Head of Cabinet

During my three days in Beijing, I met with a number of important players, including Vice Minister Cao. During my meeting with Vice Minister Cao, we discussed our shared desire to cooperate. We updated each other on our respective progress in the fields of Galileo and Beidou/Compass. I proposed "co-habitation", to which Mr. Cao responded favourably, as he felt it encompassed compatibility. He further added that China is looking for technological cooperation, and urged for research collaboration under the EU Framework Programme.

Mr. Cao agreed to work on a terms of reference for an EU-ESA-China Space dialogue. At the close of our meeting and subsequent dinner, I proposed a joint statement on solving the GNSS compatibility issue, to which my Chinese counterpart happily obliged, with both of us signing the document and exchanging pens as a symbolic present.

I also spoke with representatives of the business community, regarding ways to create greater EU-China links through financing and investments. We discussed organising and holding a Brussels-based European and Chinese investors forum, which we are currently in the process of setting up. I will report back as soon as we have made progress on this front.



The next day, I visited the China-Europe Global Navigation Satellite System Technical Training and Cooperation Centre (CEN-C), which the Chinese cared to show us as they view the centre as evidence of how previous cooperation with the European Commission ended in success.

Later on the evening of 25 February, I met with Mr. Ederer, head of the EU Delegation to China. As I wrapped up my trip to China, the morale was optimistic and the spirit high between both sides. On Saturday, I returned to Brussels, where I prepared for my week ahead.

I am pleased to report how successful this mission was. My European counterparts and I succeeded in opening up GNSS cooperation with China's space ministry. Vice President Tajani and I look forward to continuing our positive and productive discussion with the Chinese.