



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 29.10.2019
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*Mr Roberto FICO
President of the
Camera dei Deputati
Piazza Montecitorio
IT – 00100 ROMA*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera dei Deputati for its Opinion on the Joint Communication of the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy ‘EU-China - A Strategic Outlook’ {JOIN(2019) 5 final}. The Commission welcomes the support of the Camera dei Deputati for the Joint Communication and takes note of its qualifications.

The cornerstones of the EU policy towards China remain the Joint Communication of the Commission and of the High Representative ‘Elements for a New Strategy on China’ of June 2016 {JOIN (2016) 30 final} and the Council Conclusions on the EU’s Strategy on China adopted in July 2016. However, China’s increasing economic and political influence warranted a review of this framework. It is in this context that the 2019 Joint Communication was adopted, calling for a more realistic, assertive and multi-faceted approach towards China.

The line of the Joint Communication was also confirmed by the Political Guidelines¹ of the President-elect, Ursula von der Leyen. In particular, it corresponds to her ambition for a stronger Europe in the world, with trade being ‘a means to deliver prosperity at home and to export our values across the world’². In addition, the Joint Communication furthers the commitment – also enshrined in the Political Guidelines – to fight climate change, as it calls on China to limit its emissions in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The Commission is looking forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/political-guidelines-next-commission_en.pdf

² Ibid.