

Brussels, 15 MARS 2011

Dear Lord Roper,

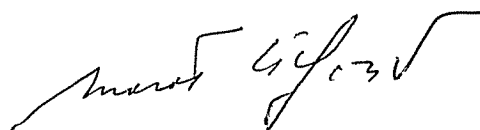
Thank you for your letter of 19 October 2010, following the response to the House of Lords report on "Stars and Dragons: the EU and China", which was sent to you on 30 September (ref: C/210/6349).

I am pleased to note that the replies of the European Commission met the concerns and recommendations laid down in the report. As regards the two queries on paragraphs 193 and 232, I would like to inform you of the following:

- *Paragraph 193: Under the current budgetary regime of the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Union Delegation is located solely in Beijing. The EU has recognised the importance of developing a presence in major industrial centres outside Beijing. These contacts are maintained by working closely with EU Member States present in the provinces and also through the network of development cooperation projects, worth approximately EUR 300m, that are funded from the EU budget*
- *Paragraph 232: The EU Delegation in Beijing is aware of the need to increase the number of staff working on political issues, especially in the area of human rights. According to the current recruitment plan, two additional posts are foreseen for the political section. In addition, one person from the Operational section is working on human rights related development cooperation. The EU Delegation also chairs meetings of Member States Human Rights officers and draws on the expertise and knowledge of Member States.*

I trust that these clarifications address your remarks and would like to assure you that the responsible staff are available if further clarifications are required.

Best regards,



*The Rt. Hon the Lord Roper
Chairman of the Select Committee
of the European Union
London SW1A 0PW
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