



Shanghai Forum 2017 Perspective Highlights

China-CEE Cooperation and OBOR: Sharing Opportunities and Forging Synergies

SHANGHAI FORUM 2017 ROUNDTABLES

Session One

13:30-15:35, May 27

Chair: Zhang Ji Center for French Studies of Fudan University, Deputy Director

Moderator: Andris Sprūds Latvian Institute of International Affairs, Director

Liu Zuokui

Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Director of the Department of Central and Eastern European Studies, Institute of European Studies

China-CEE Countries Cooperation under OBOR

1. China-CEE cooperation is an inclusive platform for mutual development and benefits.
2. China-CEE cooperation had made achievements in 6 aspects, including trade and investment, infrastructure and industry capacity building, new financial supporting instruments, special coordinating platforms and institutions, local cooperation and cooperation with the third parties.
3. China-CEE cooperation met problems owing to CEE countries' high expectation and China's strong geopolitical motivation.

Zivadin Jovanovic
Belgrade Forum for a World of Equals, President

China - CEE cooperation under OBOR and the role of Serbia

1. In the past five years, China-CEE cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative has proved to be an important factor of economic growth, employment and better life of the people, which is encouraging for further enhancement.
2. China thinks highly of Serbia, and contributes to many infrastructure facilities, including the bridge over Danube River, Serbia-Hungary high speed railway. China also helps to design three rivers comprehensive development project, focusing on better exploiting and preserving water resources.

Lauri Mätksoo
Estonian Foreign Policy Institute, Director

China-CEE Cooperation, Its Potential and Perspectives: A View from Estonia

1. China chooses to cooperate with CEE countries based on geopolitical consideration; China assists to build high speed railway in Serbia because of its special location.
2. There exists diversity among CEE countries over language, religious, political issues, which may result in tension or war. These may be obstacles to the infrastructure building.
3. CEE countries was controlled by imperial power in history, connectivity is beneficial to local development and diversity.



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Andris Sprūds
Latvian Institute of
International
Affairs, Director

Towards Synergy of Visions and Interests in China-CEE Cooperation: Latvia's Perspective

1. China-CEE cooperation is opportunity, physically presented by trade and investment, infrastructure facilities, mentally presented by mutual people-to-people understanding.
2. China-CEE cooperation is competition among CEE countries, as well as competition between China and the EU.
3. China-CEE cooperation meets challenges, while the trade surpluses between China and Latvia is huge and the EU's interests are also important.

Adriana Skorupska
Polish Institute of
International
Affairs (PISM),
Senior Analyst

Poland-China Sub-regional Cooperation

1. Poland proposes parallel diplomacy to stimulate the growth of investment, economy, markets and the local cities. Local authorities benefit from the fact that relations between the two countries are now the best, so cooperation is gaining the political support from Beijing and Warsaw.
2. The strategic partnership between China and Poland is very efficient and productive. Under the Belt and Road Initiative, Poland and China are eager to cooperate, and Poland had successfully join the AIIB.

Dai Yichen
Institute of
International
Relations Shanghai
Academy of Social
Sciences, Assistant
Research Fellow

The new development of Poland, Hungary and Czech's relations with China under the B&R Initiative

1. Poland, Hungary and Czech's relations with China are revived under the logic of economy; these three countries want to change their highly economic dependence on European market, and suffer from the tension with Russia. The development of relations can be observed on increasing high-level visits, improving transport connections, etc.
2. To further implement the Belt and Road Initiative in the three countries, China need to know more about the real demands.

DISCUSSION

Geopolitical risk is a negative but inevitable factor on the China-CEE cooperation, but China have corresponding measures to deal with it, such as negotiating with Russia. For further development, higher education exchanging should be prioritized among China and CEE countries, which in the long term will produce mental connection.



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Session Two

15:35-17:05, May 27

Chair: Zhang Ji Center for French Studies of Fudan University, Deputy Director

Moderator: Lauri Mälksoo Estonian Foreign Policy Institute, Director

Viktor Eszterhai **Setting New International Rules and the Belt and Road Geopolitical Initiative: a Central European Perspective**
Institute of China, Pallas Athene Geopolitical Foundation (PAGEO) Pallas Athene, Senior Analyst

1. China's foreign policy is a real challenge for the post-cold war system, but reflecting the reality of the multi-polar world.
2. The changing globalization process enforces new solutions for international cooperation, and the "16+1" cooperation is a model with more practical and flexible structures.
3. The "16+1" cooperation fits into China's other institution formulating efforts, which have a common background on world view and history.

Jin Ling **EU's role in 16+1: its impact on BRI**
China Institute of International Studies, Associate Research Fellow

1. EU's economic power is strong on CEE countries, concerning their trade, investment and the structure of economy.
2. EU's institutional power can't be overlooked, some cooperation between China and Poland failed because of the EU's regulations.
3. Strong EU's identification still exists among the public of CEE countries, which is difficult to deal with.

Alessia Amighini **China-EU Cooperation and OBOR through the EU-China Connectivity Platform: Policy Implications**
ISPI - Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale, Head-in-charge of China research and Associate Senior Research Fellow

1. China and CEE countries lack enough high-level forum to discuss about the challenged under the Belt and Road Initiative, especially over the establishment of institutions and policies.
2. China and CEE countries should coordinate to set up regulations on infrastructure and purchasing, which involved a great number of corporations.



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Xiang Zuotao
Department of
Comparative
Politics, School
of International
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Peking
University,
Professor

Dual Momentums of China-CEE Cooperation: Advantage and Contradiction

1. China should avoid neglecting diversities among the CEE countries and design cooperation programs correspondingly.
2. China must pay attention the multiparty system in CEE countries, and the conflicts between the ruling party and other parties.

DISCUSSION

Whether EU is an extra factor of the China-CEE cooperation or not needs reconsideration, since most of the 16 countries are EU members, they can exert an impact over the EU. Many EU key members, such as France and Germany, do not embrace the Belt and Road Initiative warmly, due to the concern over politics and security.

(Editor: Yang Su)