

Federica Mogherini to host a meeting with Presidents Vučić and T

Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, will host in Brussels [on Monday morning](#)– following bilateral meetings in the margins of South East European Cooperation Process (SEEC) Summit in Dubrovnik tonight – an informal meeting between the Presidents Aleksandar Vučić of Serbia and Hashim Thaçi of Kosovo. They will have an exchange of views on the continuation of the dialogue for normalisation of relations between Kosovo and Serbia as well as the broader developments in the Western Balkans region.

Statement by the High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mog

In view of the deteriorating health and serious condition of Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo, the European Union expects the People's Republic of China to immediately grant him parole on humanitarian grounds and allow him to receive medical assistance at a place of his choosing in China or overseas.

At the same time, we expect China to remove all limitations on the movements of Mr Liu's wife and family members. They must be able to meet and receive visits from whomever they desire, and be able to freely communicate with the outside world.

Statement by the Spokesperson on the decision of the Belarus Supr

The Belarusian Supreme Court has upheld yet another death sentence, this time against Aliaksei Mikhalenia.

The continued application of the death penalty runs counter to Belarus'

stated willingness to engage with the international community, including the European Union, on the matter.

The European Union reaffirms its strong opposition to capital punishment and urges Belarus, the only country in Europe still applying capital punishment, to commute the remaining death sentences and to introduce without delay a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its abolition.

[10 years since its creation, the EU-China Civil Society Round Table discusses innovation, trade and investment, and social and labour rights](#)

The EU-China [Round Table's fifteenth meeting](#) took place in Beijing from 28 to 30 June 2017, marking 10 years since it was first set up. The theme of the 2-day meeting of delegations from the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the China Economic and Social Council (CESC) was "Partnership for Growth, Civilization of mutual benefit". The main topics of debate were innovation as a driver for economic vitality, trade, investment and social and labour rights, summed up in [a joint statement](#). In addition, both delegations met with Mr Yu Zhengsheng, Member of the Politburo Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and Chairman of the CPPCC.

On behalf of the Chinese government, Mr Yu acknowledged the need for China to tackle the inequalities created as a result of globalisation, and reaffirmed their will to cooperate with the EU in an open, sustainable and rules-based multilateral environment.

Mr **Georges Dassis**, EESC President, reaffirmed that the EU needs China and China needs the EU, and that both the EESC and the China ESC can play a role, as civil society, in making this relation become fully participative.

Stefano Palmieri, EESC Member and rapporteur on social and labour rights said that "The EU and China need to take decisive action to reaffirm the importance of decent jobs and working conditions on the basis of agreed international labour conventions".

"The implementation of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative should contribute to the realization of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, and its Sustainable Development Goals", said **Jonathan Peel**, EESC Member and rapporteur on Trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation, "and should be aligned to the European TEN-T and under the Connectivity Platform".

EESC Member **Antonio Longo** presented his report on Innovation-driven development and economic vitality, focusing on the need for reciprocal conditions for R&I cooperation, and for mutual access to EU and China research programmes for students and researchers.

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The EU-China Civil Society Round Table was established in 2007 following a decision taken by the 9th EU-China Summit in Helsinki. The delegations from the EESC and its Chinese counterpart, the China Economic and Social Council, meet regularly to discuss topics relating to economic and social issues relevant to both parties. By elaborating reports, discussing them and exchanging ideas, the representatives of the European Economic and Social Committee and the China Economic and Social Council contribute to the development of the overall EU-China relationship, from a civil society perspective.

ESMA provides market size calculations for MiFID II ancillary test

Under the revised Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID II) market participants are required to measure their own activity against total market sizes in commodity derivatives. Those market participants exceeding a certain market share are required to apply for an authorisation as an investment firm.

ESMA provides indication of market sizes

ESMA collected data for the calculation of the on-venue market size from the trading venues located in the European Economic Area (EEA), which it provides for the total year of 2015 and for the second half of the year 2016. In addition, ESMA also looked at the size of the OTC market for the second half of 2016 based on data from trade repositories. The exact methodology applied and the way market participants can use the data published by ESMA for their market share calculations are described in detail in the opinion.

Due to the lack of publicly available data for commodity derivatives and emission allowances, ESMA's intention behind this publication is to help market participants in performing the ancillary activity test in MiFID II.