

Towards a co-management of Sino-EU strategic partnership

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I. Is the co-management of Sino-EU strategic partnership important for both sides?

- **I-1: theoretically, friendly international relations should be based on effective co-management**
- **--- Realism: from anarchy to ally**
 - According to realism, for individual states:
 - enemies-balance; friends-ally; unrelated actors-neutrality
- **--- Liberalism: from interdependence to governance**
 - Inter-state relations should be handled by some international regimes, for example, international organizations. That is, international relations could be managed through governance.
- **--- Constructivism: from strangers to shared identity**
 - For constructivists, the decision of an individual states' or international actor's interests are essentially based on its knowledge and identity. With the help of interaction with other actors, one state can identify its interests and international identity, and can decide to build good or bad relations with other actors.
 - The process of building good relations with other actors through interaction could be considered as one kind of effective co-management of international relations.

I. Is the co-management of Sino-EU strategic partnership important for both sides?

- **I-2: If without co-management of Sino-EU strategic partnership--**

- The partnership would ever be a myth or illusion; conversely, with the help of co-management, Sino-EU strategic partnership could be expected.

- **I-2: Effective co-management are needed in Sino-European strategic partnership--**

- Because they are not enemies for each other and interdependent economically and politically as well.

- **I-3: at present, no co-management happens in Sino-EU strategic relations**

II. What are challenges for the co-management of Sino-EU strategic partnership?

■ **II-1: are these challenges?**

- ---- Different values? For instance, EU: normative power? China: an exceptional state?
- ---- Some functional disputes over those in bilateral level such as arms embargo, textile trade, China's market economic status or their conflict in Africa, and so on?
- ---- Different opinions on some international issues in global level, such as Iran nuclear issue, Darfur issue or DPRK's nuclear issue, and so on?
- ---and so on.

II. What are challenges for the co-management of Sino-EU strategic partnership?

- **II-2: they're challenges!**
- **---- Different definition on strategic partnership**
- Basically, EU considers its strategic partnership with other actors is based on the same or similar values, meanwhile, it argues China has different values with the Europe. It's confusing for Chinese. So the strategic partnership for EU is like a tool to engage China into the West or shape China according to Western values. This is Europe's "strategy" but cannot be accepted by China.
- Beijing defines the "strategic partnership" to be comprehensive in all areas – economy, politics and security.

II. What are challenges for the co-management of Sino-EU strategic partnership?

- **II-2: they're challenges!**

- **----- Gap between expectation and implementation**

- For EU: as partner, China should be more like the West, but not in reality; China should cooperate with EU in some international cases, but not in reality; China should limit its exports of goods to European market and be more active to protect intellectual property rights, but not in reality. Etc.
- For China: EU should not interfere in China's domestic affairs, especially about Dalai, Tibet, Xinjiang and Taiwan, but did in reality; EU should do much to promote two sides' relations through lifting arms embargo or recognizing China's market economic status, but not in reality; EU should respect China's interests in international society, but not in reality; EU should be more independent from US, but not in reality.

II. What are challenges for the co-management of Sino-EU strategic partnership?

- **II-2: they're challenges!**

- **---- Inequality**

- Due to the idea of Euro-centrism, essentially, EU still looks down on China and does not put China at an equal status politically. For example, normalizing or socializing China is the EU's strategy to develop relations with China, according to which so many bilateral agendas are advocated and dominated only by the EU and meanwhile, these agendas are mostly regarding China's domestic affairs!
- The superiority of EU's ability of agenda-setting in China-EU relations is the symbol of the inequality in their partnership.

III. What's the ground of co-management of Sino-EU strategic partnership?

- **III-1: Common interests in bilateral relations and in international arena**
- ---- Interdependence in economic field
- ---- Necessity of UN to deal with international affairs
- ---- Multilateralism (multi-polarity?)
- ---- More independence of Europe in international arena
- ---- More democracy of international relations, e.g. international financial system

III. What's the ground of co-management of Sino-EU strategic partnership?

- **III-2: without geopolitical issues**
- ---- No disputes on shared historical heritage (not like China-Japan, China-Vietnam, China-India, etc.)
- ---- No disputes on borders
- ---- No disputes on range of political influence in East and South-east Asia (not like Sino-US)
- ---- Taiwan is less and less important for China-EU relations

III. What's the ground of co-management of Sino-EU strategic partnership?

- **III-3: global issues as new dynamics to make two sides closer**

(such as climate change? global financial system?!)

IV. How to co-manage the Sino-EU strategic partnership?

- **IV-1: generally—**
- Grounded in common interests and mutual trust, strategic partnership could be co-managed by some mechanisms.

IV. How to co-manage the Sino-EU strategic partnership?

- **IV-2: technologically—some technological mechanism should be formulated and instituted by cooperation.**
- --head summit is necessary but not sufficient. Ministers-level and other middle-level official regular workshops are needed;
- --incompact mechanism such as regular official dialogues or actives is necessary but not sufficient. Some institutional arrangements in charge of their strategic partnership should be realized.
- --government-to-government dialogues and workshops are necessary but not sufficient. People-to-people exchanges and communications are needed;
- -- Dialogues and exchanges in economic field are necessary but not sufficient. Mutual understanding and trust as the ground of strategic partnership are more based on political communications and exchange of security.
- --strategic partnership is based on good bilateral relations is necessary but not sufficient. The partnership should be based much more on global governance and the future of new global orders.

THANKS!

Comments are warmly welcome.