Assessing the Strategic Partnership between China and the European Union (2003-2010)

By

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ABSTRACT

China and the European Union officially claimed to establish strategic partnership in 2003. After several years of development, the bilateral relations between these sides have witnessed certain developments, such as the expanding economic and trade volumes, technology cooperation, cultural exchange and so on. However, owing to differences in ideology, political and social systems, historical backgrounds, economic development status, the strategic partnership between China and the EU has failed to meet mutual expectations in the years followed. Debates concerning on whether the partnership between these two parties can be considered strategic or not have raised heated discussions on both official and academic levels.

Therefore, this master thesis joins the discussions trying to evaluate whether the China-EU partnership can be regarded as strategic on its own way. At the discourse level, it is found that the partnership between China and the EU not only failed to identify common interests and figure out more joint priorities in official papers issued in the EU-China Summits but also in practices as well. The theory of realist approach and the concept of complex interdependence will also be combined in the discourse process.
DECLARATION

I, Ou Weiqiang, hereby state that this thesis is my own and original work, apart from the sections where origins are clearly stated. All the materials in this thesis have never been used (partially or wholly) in fulfilling the requirements for any degree or qualification in this or other university prior to this submission.

Student’s Signature:  Ou Weiqiang

Date: November 11, 2011
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**ABBREVIATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>African Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCS</td>
<td>CO2 Capture and Storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDM</td>
<td>Clean Development Mechanism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFSP</td>
<td>Common Foreign and Security Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>European Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECSC</td>
<td>European Coal and Steel Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEAS</td>
<td>European External Action Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEC</td>
<td>European Economic Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEP</td>
<td>Energy and Environment Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPC</td>
<td>European Political Cooperation</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euratom</td>
<td>European Atomic Energy Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>FDI</td>
<td>Foreign Direct Investment</td>
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<tr>
<td>GATT</td>
<td>General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>Generalized System of Preferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>Global Positioning System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAEA</td>
<td>International Atomic Energy Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICARE</td>
<td>Euro-Chinese Institute for Clean and Renewable Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEDO</td>
<td>Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFN</td>
<td>Most Favored Nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organization for Economy Cooperation and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRC</td>
<td>People's Republic of China</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNSC</td>
<td>United Nations Security Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSR</td>
<td>Union of Soviet Socialist Republics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WTO</td>
<td>World Trade Organization</td>
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