

UNIVERSITY OF MACAU

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

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.

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ABBREVIATIONS

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