



欧盟中国委员会  
EU-CHINA COMMISSION

## 17+1 SMART ROAD TRADE & INVEST SUMMIT

2021

Athens, Greece

The Summit will bring together more than 200 Chinese and Central - Eastern European senior government officials, private sector executives, investors, stakeholders and NGOs, who will discuss how to harness the trade and project investment opportunities provided by the 17+1 Cooperation Platform and the Belt and Road Initiative. The Summit will also explore investment and financing solutions available to trade and project investment in the region, including those with higher operating risks.

Enhancing business opportunities and developing new strategies through technology and digitalization has been an integral part of the Chinese economy's success. Most Central -Eastern European countries find themselves today in various stages and levels of 'standard-modern' technology, whereas China is in an ongoing technological revolution characterized by 'highly-modern' technology. This Summit will also examine how the 17+1 countries can learn and benefit from each other's technology experiences to further develop their economies. It will focus on key trade opportunities, which can facilitate technological leapfrogging.

The Summit will serve as a platform for Chinese and Central - Eastern European government and business leaders to:

**ENGAGE:** on key sectors including Clean Energy, Technology, Tourism, Agribusiness and Infrastructure as well as Financing

**NETWORK:** with key private sector, government and NGO decision makers;

**EXPLORE:** new business and investment opportunities and meet potential business partners and investors;



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## DAY 1

**08:30 – 08:45 Opening remarks - TBD**

**08:45 – 09:00 Welcoming remarks - TBD**

**09:00 - 10:50 Session 1 - Clean Energy**

Decarbonizing the energy sector and rolling out cleaner, cheaper and healthier forms of private and public transport are two of the major priorities of the European Green Deal. This is the action plan whereby European countries move to a clean, circular economy that restores biodiversity and cuts pollution.

This transition to a greener economy will result in many benefits and opportunities for the countries of the 17+1 Cooperation Platform, especially in Photovoltaic (PV) Projects, Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations, EV Batteries and Energy Storage for renewables.

Solar and wind energy have reached grid parity (and often further) in both price and performance in many regions and the utilization of blockchain, AI and other automation technologies have made renewables self-optimizing, increasing their efficiency. Yet the uptake in many of the 17+1 countries, is slower than to be expected. We discuss the obstacles which stand in the way of a more rapid uptake of renewables in the region and discuss strategies for overcoming these, while at the same time highlighting some of the more recent technological developments in the sector.

### Speeches

**Keynote Speakers: (average timeslot of 15 minutes each)**

1. Senior 17+1 Government Official
2. Senior PRC Government Official

### Panel Discussion

**Moderator:** 17+1 Business Leader



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**Panelists:**

1. 17+1 Business Leader
2. PRC Business Leader
3. 17+1 Business Leader
4. PRC Business Leader
5. 17+1 Business Leader
6. PRC Business Leader

**10:50 - 11:10 Coffee Break**

**11:10 – 13:00 Session 2 - Technology**

New technologies and digitalization, particularly the adaptation of AI and smart technologies, have been an integral part of the Chinese economy's success. What opportunities and strategies can be pursued in the rest of the 17+1 region and what are the gateway sectors and applications in which these technologies can be employed.

**Speeches**

**Keynote Speakers: (average timeslot of 15 minutes each)**

1. 17+1 Business Leader
2. PRC Business Leader

**Panel Discussion**

**Moderator:** 17+1 Business Leader

**Panelists:**

3. Senior 17+1 Government Official
4. Senior PRC Government Official
5. 17+1 Business Leader
6. PRC Business Leader
7. 17+1 Business Leader
8. PRC Business Leader

**13:00 – 14:30 LUNCH**



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### **14:40 – 16:30 Session 3 - Tourism**

For over the past seven years, Chinese tourism to Europe has been focused on brand tourism and now the cycle is turning towards culture and leisure tourism. Meanwhile the rise of thematic tourism such as food-, eco- and health and sports tourism in Europe has reduced the cyclicity of the tourism season. How can the 17+1 region take advantage of these important trends to increase tourism within the region in a sustainable way, in a post-pandemic world and what concrete steps can be taken to facilitate this process.

#### **Speeches**

**Keynote Speakers: (average timeslot of 15 minutes each)**

1. PRC Business Leader
2. 17+1 Business Leader

#### **Panel Discussion**

**Moderator:** 17+1 Business Leader

**Panelists:**

1. Senior 17+1 Government Official
2. Senior PRC Government Official
3. 17+1 Business Leader
4. PRC Business Leader
5. 17+1 Business Leader
6. PRC Business Leader

### **16:30 – 16:45 Concluding Remarks - TBD**

### **16:45 – 18:15 Refreshments and Networking**

### **19:00 – 21:00 VIP Dinner for Sponsors and Dignitaries**



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## Day 2

**08:30 – 08:45 Opening remarks - TBD**

**08:45 – 09:00 Welcoming remarks - TBD**

**09:00 - 10:50 Session 4 - Agribusiness**

Consumer tastes and behaviours are evolving, with an ever-increasing number of customers driving demand for organic products, sustainable retail supply chains, eco-friendly packaging, reduced food waste and zero deforestation commitments. This is bringing about a myriad of opportunities in the sector while at the same time presenting dangers for those who are slow to adapt. We discuss ways of utilizing this opportunity as well as how new technologies can be used to manage and improve processes in the sector.

### Speeches

**Keynote Speakers: (average timeslot of 15 minutes each)**

1. PRC Business Leader
2. 17+1 Business Leader

### Panel Discussion

**Moderator:** Senior PRC Business Leader

**Panelists:**

1. Senior PRC Government Official
2. Senior 17+1 Government Official
3. PRC Business Leader
4. 17+1 Business Leader
5. PRC Business Leader
6. 17+1 Business Leader

**10:50 - 11:10 Coffee Break**



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## **11:10 – 13:00 Session 5 - Financing**

Innovation in the capital markets, off-market financing and associated risk management strategies has been growing rapidly post the 2008 financial crisis. This is even more so in regions such as China where the depth of the capital markets and financing strategies and tools available have been a major driver of its economic success and leadership.

What financing options and strategies can be employed to take advantage of the many opportunities brought about by the 17+1 Cooperation Platform and the transition to a green economy, including those with higher operating risks?

We examine some of the financing and capital strategies which are of relevance to project investment and financing in the 17+1 region as well as how closer cooperation can lead to a deeper capital pool for the region.

### **Speeches**

#### **Keynote Speakers: (average timeslot of 15 minutes each)**

1. PRC Business Leader
2. 17+1 Business Leader

### **Panel Discussion**

**Moderator:** Senior PRC Business Leader

#### **Panelists:**

1. Senior 17+1 Government Official
2. Senior PRC Government Official
3. 17+1 Business Leader
4. PRC Business Leader
5. 17+1 Business Leader
6. PRC Business Leader

## **13:00 – 14:30 LUNCH**



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## **14:40 – 16:30 Session 6 - Infrastructure**

The 17+1 Cooperation Platform and Belt and Road Initiatives have provided and will continue to provide project investment opportunities for the region. The European Green Deal is resulting in many eco-friendly infrastructure projects relating to the transition to renewable energy sources and electric vehicles. What are the best strategies to build this infrastructure in a cost-efficient way using superior technologies?

The sector is starting to undergo a structural shift whereby sustainability, green design and technology is increasingly being incorporated into construction projects. What strategies can be formulated to take advantage of these trends and their corresponding opportunities?

### **Speeches**

#### **Keynote Speakers: (average timeslot of 15 minutes each)**

1. PRC Business Leader
2. 17+1 Business Leader

### **Panel Discussion**

**Moderator:** Senior PRC Business Leader

#### **Panelists:**

1. Senior PRC Government Official
2. Senior 17+1 Government Official
3. PRC Business Leader
4. 17+1 Business Leader
5. PRC Business Leader
6. 17+1 Business Leader

## **16:30 – 16:45 Concluding Remarks - TBD**

## **16:45 – 18:15 Refreshments and Networking**