

PRESS RELEASE

13 July 2016



FTA
Foreign Trade Association

FTA Supports a Prompt and Constructive Decision on MES for China

Brussels, 13 July 2016. The Foreign Trade Association (FTA) believes that the EU-China annual summit held in Beijing on 12 and 13 July should have served to find a way out of the crisis related to the granting of Market Economy Status (MES) to China. While there are good reasons for giving China this status, opposition by MES-opponents has led to EU inaction up to now. At the same time China is pursuing a purely legalistic strategy which is likely to end up in a lengthy procedure and therefore long period of uncertainty at the WTO.

“The summit was a non-summit. It failed to make some progress in this regard and we regret that this opportunity was wasted”, said Pierre Gröning, FTA’s Head of Trade Policy. FTA calls for common sense and for real pragmatism so that this unhealthy deadlock can be overcome as soon as possible. *“Both sides have to be creative in finding a political solution to avoid that today’s frictions turn into a trade war tomorrow. I would link MES to the ongoing talks for an investment agreement: China gets MES and the EU significantly better market access”,* concluded Mr Gröning.

For more information on FTA’s position on MES click [here](#). You can also consult the recent impact assessment of a possible EU-China free trade agreement [here](#).

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The Foreign Trade Association (FTA) is the leading business association for global commerce that promotes the values of international trade and sustainable supply chains. FTA represents over 1,800 retailers, importers and brands to promote and defend international trade and supports their business by providing information and practical solutions towards sustainability in the global supply chain. The association provides the Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI) to support participants to improve working conditions in factories and farms worldwide. It also provides the Business Environmental Performance Initiative (BEPI) to facilitate improved environmental performance in global supply chains.

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