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"Europe and China's Belt and Road Initiative: New Opportunities for Cooperation and... Page 1 of 2

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A FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF CENTRAL ASIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPE



## "Europe and China's Belt and Road Initiative: New Opportunities for Cooperation and Synergy in Central Asia" – Occasional Paper Online Now

On November 20 - 21<sup>st</sup> 2017, the <u>Eurasian Council on Foreign Affairs</u> will welcome senior guests from government, business, finance, academia and the media to Cliveden House in Berkshire, England, for the Fourth Annual Meeting of the ECFA Advisory Council.

The Meeting's focus on deepening political, economic and institutional relations between Europe and Central Asia and its exploration of potential areas for increased participation in China's Belt and Road Initiative is a timely follow-on to China's first major summit on the BRI, held in Beijing in May, with the Director-General and Deputy Director-General of "The Belt and Road" initiative Special Project Committee under China Marine Strategic Forum confirmed to attend.

The ECFA is pleased to announce the publication of its fourteenth Occasional Paper, <u>"Europe and China's Belt and Road Initiative: New Opportunities for Cooperation and Synergy in Central Asia"</u>, which acts as a reminder of some of the work already carried out by China, the Central Asian states and

the European Union, while highlighting potential areas for further collaboration and synergy ahead of this month's Meeting.

The Paper concludes: "Given a truly equitable partnership and clear communication between [China and the countries of Europe], China's focus on hard infrastructure coupled with the EU's focus of soft infrastructure would create a win-win scenario in which the biggest beneficiary would be Central Asia. It would also create a level-playing field more welcoming to private sector ventures and investment."

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