



## EUROPE INDIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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EICC-2022

Brussels, 11 April 2022

Mr. Josep Borrell

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and

Vice-President of the European Commission

Brussels

Dear High Representative, Vice-President Mr. Borrell,

### Re: **China and War in Ukraine**

On behalf of Europe India Chamber of Commerce, I would like to thank you for your frank and bold assessment presented in the European Parliament last week characterizing the EU-China Summit as "Dialogue of the deaf". On the one hand, your statement reflects EU's total disappointment with Chinese response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and especially the decision of its leadership continue supporting Russia, but it also reflects EU's inconsistent China policy and on occasions, EU's appeasement of China, as has been the observation of many China experts in the EU. Sir, allow us to characterize the outcome of the EU-China Summit as "Dialogue with an Arrogant Power".

We at the Europe India Chamber of Commerce, on several occasions in the past, have brought to the attention of European Commission as well as the European Parliament, several issues concerning China including the dangers China poses to the European democracy, global peace, security, and development.

In this context, we have always asked the EU to choose its friends and partners carefully and have pointed out that there can be no greater and more reliable friend and partner of the EU in the Indo-Pacific region than India. The two partners indeed have so many similarities that it is a wonder how India and the EU relations continue to develop at such a slow pace. Both the regions or sub-continent are democratic, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-religious societies with robust institutions and a peace-loving and open-minded approach to a multi-polar and institutionally driven world. With so many similarities that India and the EU share, one cannot help but ask why the EU had to prioritize relations with an unreliable and arrogant autocratic and despotic power like China. We would like to add that a free trade agreement between EU and India can change the trade, economic and security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific.

I am aware that India's neutral stance over the Russian invasion of Ukraine has disappointed not just the EU but also the United States and its several allies in the Indo-Pacific region. However, if you go deeper into the reasons of India's stand, you will find that India's shrewd diplomacy and its neutrality at this critical phase of conflict has helped destroy Chinese

broader plan, its calculation of becoming unipolar centre of gravity influencing, shaping, and dictating the new world order, and forcing the world “Dancing with the Dragon”.

In the Ukrainian Crisis, China is part of the problem and not the solution. It is naïve to think that China would restrain Moscow to stop the war. In fact, China is pleased that Russian President is engaged in trying to create confusion and weaken Europe and its institutions including the transatlantic relations. It is no secret that there has been an evolving bromance between China and Russia going back over the last seven years and certainly since the Russian invasion of Crimea in 2014. Chinese President Xi Jinping's role in Ukraine is though far less visible than Vladimir Putin's, but make no mistake: China is also a combatant in the war. Without doubt, China is playing a particularly malign role in Ukraine and must pay the price.

China is using overseas social media to spread unique views on war in Ukraine. Chinese state-controlled media are placing volumes of content on popular social media platforms to air the government's messages on the war to a Western audience. Its official Xinhua News Agency, the English-language newspaper China Daily and the China Global Television Network (CGTN) are trying to influence its readers, listeners and viewers giving Russian twist to the war. Hence, the question whether CGTN should also not be banned in Europe like Russia Today has been?

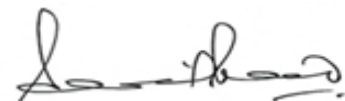
While trade and economics has always been the backbone of EU-China relations, China's multi-dimensional policies towards EU is centered around achieving its core objective of weakening EU and its democratic institutions. China's trade policies towards EU are neither fair nor reciprocal as China does not play the global system of rules that protect free trade. History shows that China has always violated trade agreements and treaties. China believes in using trade as political weapon and has long used trade to silence countries that refuse to toe its line.

Sir, it is not out of context to add that the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment with China will help EU to level the playing field for EU investors by laying down clear rules on Chinese state-owned enterprises, transparency of subsidies, and prohibiting forced technology transfers and other distortive practices. Let me add that China will invent tools, innovate unfair means and mechanism to undermine EU's concerns and take advantage of the yet to be ratified EU's CAI with China.

I hope the above will receive your attention and whether you agree with our views, please let careful consideration inform your action.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Secretary General

Cc: Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice President and EU Commissioner for Trade, European Commission