Status of market economy to China: What political answers can be given to this legal straitjacket?

Authors: Charles de Marcilly, Angéline Garde

With the consultation by the Commission, hearings at the European Parliament, corporate involvement and petitions, the status of China as a market economy is the focus of debate in Brussels. The temporary application (15 years) of specifically restrictive anti-dumping measures will soon be coming to an end. 12th December 2016 now seems to be a Damocles sword now seems to be hanging over many European businesses - two legal systems – that of the WTO and that of the EU – are struggling to work in harmony.

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The IMF publishes a negative bulletin on the world's economy
On 12th April the IMF published a pessimistic review of the world's economy, noting that growth would be 3.2% in 2016 and 3.5% in 2017. In the euro zone it would be 1.5% in 2016 and 1.6% in 2017...

G20 Finance Conclusions Washington
The industrialised and emerging powers of the G20 re-iterated the importance on 15th April of “the priority granted to financial transparency” and asked the OECD to pinpoint the tax havens that were refusing to cooperate with the international community by July this year... Read more

Euro zone economic outlook
On 12th April three statistics institutes INSEE (France), ISTAT (Italy) and IFO (Germany) published their economic outlook for the euro zone... Read more

Migration:
The Pope visits Lesbos
On 16th April Pope Francis visited the Greek island of Lesbos to meet refugees and to speak of the migratory crisis. He decided to host twelve Syrian refugees at the Vatican six of whom are children... Read more

Law on integration of refugees in Germany
On 14th April the German government approved measures surrounding the integration of refugees, their rights and their duties... Read more

Migratory Crisis: assessment of Greece’s action plan
On 12th April the Commission adopted its assessment of the Greek authorities’ action plan on the country’s shortcomings in the management of its external borders... Read more

Surge in Migrant Arrivals in Italy
Nearly 6,000 migrants arrived in Italy between 12th and 15th April i.e. nearly the total of all arrivals in Europe this week according to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)... Read more

Assessment of relocation and resettlement policies
On 12th April the European Commission made its first assessment of the action undertaken by the Member States as part of the refugee
A centralised asylum system
MEPs adopted a resolution on 12th April in support of a centralised asylum system for an improved management of flows of migrants and asylum seekers... Read more

Commission:
Improvement of the social situation and employment in the EU
On 12th April the European Commission published its quarterly spring review on the social situation and employment in the EU... Read more

Public Income tax rules for multinationals
On 12th April the European Commission published a proposal on tax evasion which would oblige multinational companies to be more transparent about their profits and their taxes... Read more

Parliament:
Approval of PNR files and data protection
On 14th April MEPs adopted successively the directive on the regulation of passenger data use, 461 votes in support, 179 against and 9 abstentions and the new European measures on data protection... Read more

Strengthening of business secrecy
On 14th April businesses and the press achieved the support of MEPs who adopted new rules regarding business secrecy 503 votes in support, 131 against and 18 abstentions... Read more

Additional funds to aid refugees and to counter terrorism
MEPs voted in 13th April in support of additional funds of 100 million € to help refugees and 2 million € for recruitment within the European Centre to counter terrorism... Read more

Warning to the Polish authorities
On 13th April MEPs approved a resolution calling on the Polish authorities to implement fully the Venice Commission's recommendations on the independence of the Constitutional Court of Poland... Read more

Council:
Conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council
The 28 Foreign Affairs Ministers who met on 18th April spoke of the need to strengthen their work in the Central and Eastern Mediterranean, the two main migratory routes at present. They expressed their satisfaction at the arrival of the Council of the Presidency in Libya on 30th March. They gave details of the "real projects" that will support the new government of national unity in the economic and security areas. Finally they discussed the Eastern Partnership. .. Read more
European Agencies:

**News from the ExoMars probe**

The Russian-European probe "ExoMars 2016", which is on its way to the red planet is in "excellent health" and sent its first pictures showing a starry sky announced the European Space Agency (ESA) on 14th April. Read more

**Privacy data shield between the EU and the USA**

The European regulation authorities deemed on 13th April that the agreement between the EU and the USA regarding personal data was far from satisfactory. Read more

Ireland:

**In the Ireland the formation of a government is proving difficult**

On Thursday 14th April the Irish Parliament did not succeed in coming to agreement over a government for the country. This was the third investiture debate the Assembly had held since the elections on February 26th. Neither the outgoing Prime Minister Enda Kenny nor his direct rival, Micheál Martin (Fianna Fáil), leader of the opposition succeeded in forming a vital consensus for any investiture. Putting a government together remains difficult. The Labour Party seems to have some reservations about renewing its participation in the government coalition and opposes the investiture of a minority government led by Enda Kenny. Read more

Luxembourg:

**Inauguration of the Robert Schuman Institution**

On 11th April the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg inaugurated the Robert Schuman Institute for European Affairs at the University of Luxembourg. Read more

The Netherlands:

**Final results of the consultative referendum on the EU-Ukraine Agreement**

The Central Electoral Committee of the Netherlands published the official results of the consultative referendum on the EU-Ukraine Agreement on 12th April (61% against and 38.21% in support). Read more

UK:

**Official launch of the referendum campaign**

On 15th April the campaign in view of the referendum on 23rd June was launched. The British Electoral Commission appointed "The In Campaign" to lead the campaign in support of staying in the EU and the "Vote Leave" to undertake that advocating Britain's exit. Read more

**Meeting between NATO's Secretary General and David Cameron**

On 14th April NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg met British Prime Minister David Cameron to discuss the way NATO was adapting to present security challenges. Read more

Macedonia:

**Demonstrators against the President**

Since 13th April in Skopje demonstrators have been protesting against the Macedonian President's decision to grant amnesty to political...
figures involved in an illegal phone tapping scandal, and against the decision to organise a snap election on 5th June... Read more

Russia :
Vladimir Putin's Press Conference
On 14th April Russian President Vladimir Putin held his 14th question and answer session on Russian television... Read more

Russian provocation over the Baltic Sea
The American army denounced the manoeuvres of Russian fighter planes over the Baltic Sea, likewise the Polish spokesperson at the Polish Defence Ministry on 18th April... Read more

Ukraine :
Volodymyr Groisman, new Prime Minister
The appointment of the leader of the Ukrainian Parliament, Volodymyr Groisman as the new Prime Minister of Ukraine was approved on 14th April by Parliament... Read more

Council of Europe :
Freedom of the press and the protection of journalism
On 13th April the Council of Europe adopted the guidelines aiming to ensure the protection of the freedom of the press and the safety of journalists in the 47 Member States... Read more

Downturn in the Human Rights situation in Turkey
On 14th April after a visit to Turkey the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights denounced the worsening human rights situation in Turkey... Read more

Report by the Council of Europe on Human Rights in Crimea
On 13th April Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann presented the report on his recent mission to assess the human rights situation in Crimea undertaken in January 2016 to the Committee of Ministers at the Council of Europe... Read more

OECD :
European countries are leading countries in Public Development Aid
2015 figures relative to Public Development Aid published by the OECD on 13th April place 19 EU Member in the Development Aid Committee (DAC) of the OECD as the "first donors" in 2015 (73.5 billion $) ahead of the USA (31.5 billion $)... Read more

Eurostat :
Euro zone and EU inflation rates up
The euro zone and EU's annual inflation rates lay at 0% in March 2016, against -0.2% and -0.1% respectively in February... Read more
Trade surplus up in the EU, down in the euro zone
In February, according to Eurostat, the euro zone registered a surplus in its international goods and services trade of 19 billion € and the EU 3 billion € (against 20 billion € and 1.8 billion € in February 2015)... Read more

Studies/Reports :
Publication of the annual report on the G20
On 13th April the DG Economy and Finance at the European Commission published its annual report on the advantages of belonging to the G20... Read more

Transatlantic Economy in 2016
Dan Hamilton and Jo Quinlan have published their study on the transatlantic economy 2016 laying out in detail the investments and trade flows between the USA and the EU... Read more

European Strategy and Defence
The European Union's Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) has just published two studies on Europe's overall defence and strategy... Read more

Culture :
European Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art
Until 4th September the Museum for Modern Art in Frankfurt is hosting a temporary Imagined Museum using loans from two other European modern and contemporary art museums - the Pompidou Centre and the Tate... Read more

Apollinaire, the vision of the poet
Until 18th July the Orangerie Museum in Paris is hosting an exhibition "Apollinaire, the vision of the poet", in reference to the period during which Guillaume Apollinaire was an art critic... Read more

Sigmar Polke Exhibition at the Grassi Palazzo
On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of its re-opening, the Grassi Palazzo in Venice is hosting an exhibition until 6th November devoted to Sigmar Polke... Read more

Exhibition on the Rolling Stones in London
Until 4th September the Saatchi Gallery in London is presenting its first international exhibition on the Rolling Stones entitled "Exhibitionism"... Read more

Shakespeare at the National Opera of Warsaw
The Grand Theatre-National Opera of Warsaw is organising a series of productions on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare: The Tempest, Hamlet and Romeo and Juliet... Read more
Agenda:

18th and 19th April
Luxembourg
"Foreign Affairs" Council

21st April
Luxembourg
Justice and Internal Affairs Council
Frankfurt/Main
ECB Council of Governors

22nd April
New York
Opening of Paris Agreement (COP 21) to signature at the UN
Amsterdam
Eurogroup Meeting

24th April
Austria
Presidential election (1st round)
Serbia
Early general elections

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