

Preface

The period 2003–2013 is one of the most important periods in China-EU relations. In the year 2003, China issued its first-ever policy paper on the EU, and on the EU side, the European Commission publicized a communication on “A Maturing Partnership-Shared Interests and Challenges in EU-China Relations,” which laid the groundwork for furthering the bilateral relations. At the 6th China-EU Summit held in the same year, both sides expressed their willingness to establish a comprehensive strategic partnership. The bilateral relationships have henceforth entered a new stage.

In order to understand the progress of the China-EU strategic partnership in the past ten years and to explore its future direction, this report first makes a comprehensive review of the relations between China and the EU from the perspectives of politics, economy, and culture. And then, it discusses China-EU relations against the backdrop of global governance as well as China’s relations with some of the EU member states. In the last part, this report makes a comparative analysis of China-EU relations and EU-US relations.

The past decade shows us that China-EU relations have now entered a stable period of development after experiencing ups and downs. In spite of the challenges and disputes that are still hampering the development of the bilateral relations, the China-EU relations have stayed on an upward track and the overall strategic direction of the relationship has been a positive one. Both the international environment and the future development of China and the EU themselves decide that the next decade of China-EU relations will be brighter.

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