



## **Minutes BCECC General Assembly September 7, 2023**

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### **Present**

Bernard Dewit, Annemie van den Dries, Filip Verstraete, Wei Li, Philippe Borremans, Geert Regelbrugge

### **Excused**

Fangdong Yang, Inge Taillieu, Dirk Van den Bosch, Eric Dumas

### **Others**

Chen Si – Executive Manager, BCECC

Robin Frederix – Event Manager, BCECC

Meeting called to order by Bernard Dewit (BD), Chairman of the Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (BCECC).

### **1. Approval minutes General Assembly August 30, 2022**

BD moves to the approval of the minutes. Minutes of August 30, 2022 are approved without other changes.

### **2. Activities 2022-2023**

BD presents an overview of the past and upcoming activities in 2022 and 2023, of which the most important ones are:

- 01/09/2022: Webinar “2022 Beijing Two Zones International Cooperation and Invest Beijing Summit”
- 02/09/2022: Event “The BCECC’s Diplomatic Days: Belgium-China relations today”
- 08/09/2022: Webinar “IP rights on cross-border e-commerce platforms in China: Do’s and don’ts”
- 08/09/2022: Webinars “Online Business Chinese language courses”
- 13/09/2022: Event “The BCECC’s After Summer Get Together”
- 21/09/2022: Webinar “Opportunities in Inner Mongolia for foreign companies”
- 29/09/2022: Webinar “Chinese SMEs in Europe: New Opportunities & Challenges for European companies”
- 06/10/2022: Webinar “The EU & China: Shared responsibilities & systemic rivalry”
- 14/10/2022: Event “Accelerate Your Business Success in China: Cloud Data Intelligence & Local Compliance”



- 21/10/2022: Event “The Port of Antwerp-Bruges: An exclusive outlook on logistics now”
- 28/10/2022: Event “China-Belgium Science & Technology Symposium”
- 09/11/2022: Webinar “All eyes on the Chinese Party Congress: What you need to know”
- 17/11/2022: Webinar “Five reasons to keep China on your radar”
- 24/11/2022: Event “Entering a new era of 3D printing: Company visit to Materialise”
- 25/11/2022: Event “Where to start and how to be successful on the Chinese market?”
- 06/12/2022: Event “Co-creating a resilient and sustainable IP ecosystem”
- 15/12/2022: Webinar “A fresh look at European FDI in China”
- 20/12/2022: Webinar “China’s environmental blueprint & its opportunities for European companies”
- 12/01/2023: Webinar “Exporting to China in today’s challenging business climate”
- 26/01/2023: Event “The BCECC’s Chinese New Year’s Reception”
- 01/02/2023: Visit delegation Wuxi Software Park
- 02/02/2023: Webinars “Online Business Chinese language Courses”
- 03/02/2023: Webinar “Navigating the new European Unitary Patent System”
- 14/02/2023: Webinar “The US’ Inflation Reduction Act: Decarbonization or competition with China?”
- 01/03/2023: Visit delegation CCPITBJ
- 02/03/2023: Event “Sustainability in China: A business case”
- 14/03/2023: Event “Hubei Ezhou Investment Forum: Land & air logistics”
- 16/03/2023: Event “Meet & Greet with Ambassador Fu Cong: The future of EU-China relations”
- 21/03/2023: Event “Company visit to DP World Antwerp Gateway: Smart logistics”
- 30/03/2023: Webinar “About to Take Off: The Return of Chinese Outbound Tourism”
- 03/04/2023: Event “Belgium (Brussels) – China (Shenzhen Longhua) Economic & Trade Cooperation Conference”
- 20/04/2023: Event “MEMBERS ONLY – Doing Business with the World’s Largest Free Trade Port”
- 20/04/2023: Visit delegation Futian District Government of Shenzhen city
- 23/04/2023: Visit delegation Bank of China Shanghai Branch
- 24/04/2023: Visit delegation CIIE
- 26/04/2023: Webinar “Stefan Blommaert’s assessment of China’s Two Sessions”
- 30/04/2023: Visit delegation China International Communications Group
- 04/05/2023: Webinar “The state of US-China relations & its implications for European businesses”



- 12/05/2023: Webinar “Analysis of current & future EU-China relations by H.E. Jorge Toledo, EU Ambassador to China”
- 16/05/2023: Event “Meet & Greet with the Designate Belgian Ambassador in China and the Consul General of Guangzhou”
- 23/05/2023: Webinar “Info session on the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE)”
- 08/06/2023: Event “China-Belgium Customs Event”
- 12/06/2023: Visit delegation Fujian
- 13/06/2023: Webinar “IP Considerations during B2B meetings in China”
- 21/06/2023: Webinar “Working in Belgium as a Chinese professional – Rundown on Immigration framework”
- 27/06/2023: Event “Discover business opportunities in Shanghai’s booming Fengxian District”
- 30/06/2023: Visit delegation Hunan Province
- 04/07/2023: Visit delegation Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office
- 24/07/2023: Visit delegation Bengbu
- 17/08/2023: Visit delegation Yichun, Jiangxi province
- 25/08/2023: Visit delegation Kaifeng city
- 30/08/2023: Event “The BCECC's Annual Summer Mixer”

BD presents the last upcoming events for 2023:

- 08/09/2023: Event “China (Guangdong) – Belgium Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference”
- 14/09/2023: Event "Navigating the Green Transition: The Impact of European Green Policies on Business Strategies and Arbitration"
- 21/09/2023: Webinar “Can China take the lead in a reshaping world?”
- 27/09/2023: Event “B2B Matchmaking Event: Selected Sourcing Connect”
- 04/10/2023: Event “Company visit to bpostgroup”
- 09/10/2023: Webinar “Canton Fair Global Share: Discover the benefits of the biggest trade fair in China!”
- 09/10/2023: Event “How can the EU and China work together to address the climate challenge?”
- 20/10/2023: Event “The 5th China-Belgium Science and Technology Exchange Symposium”
- 26/10/2023: Webinar “The screening mechanism for foreign FDI: What do you need to know?”
- 16/11/2023: Company visit to Volvo
- 23/11/2023: Event “On the road to sustainable mobility with green energy”
- 07/12/2023: Webinar with ARC Consulting on China’s sourcing situation
- 14/12/2023: Event with Peter Tanghe, Technology Attaché of FIT
- Date TBC: Webinar with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank



### **3. Finances**

#### **3.1. Result & balance sheet 2022**

BD asks BCECC Treasurer, Erik Famaey, to read his report:

*Amid some relief from the covid crisis, the chamber could increase its 2022 'own revenues' by 7% to nearly € 132.000. The slight pick-up was thanks to a near doubling of the 'activity fees' which are the amounts paid by participants joining events, and despite a very small decrease in membership fees which remain close to € 100.000.*

*The chamber's self-generated income made up 72% of its total revenues with the other part provided by subsidies, mainly the € 40.000 received yearly from Flanders Investment & Trade under the strategic partnership agreement to be renewed every five years.*

*The chamber's operating expenses did not undergo notable changes. In particular the cost of the secretariat remained at € 90.000. Worth mentioning is that the aforementioned doubling of activity fees did not come with a corresponding increase in the cost of staging the events. This may be one outcome of the digital instead of in-person format of most events.*

*2022 accounts closed with a positive result of € 30.611 which adds to the comfortable financial status of the chamber.*

#### **3.2. Budget Forecast**

##### **2022**

The Chamber was able to increase its own revenue by 7%, despite the fact that there has been a slight decrease in the membership fees in 2022, seeing that the activity fees have increased quite a lot compared to last year.

##### **2023**

BD does not foresee many changes in the finances of the Chamber in the coming year.

BD finally moves to the approval of the result and balance sheet for 2022 as well as the budget forecast for 2023, which are all approved by the Board members.



## 4. Varia

### 1. Number of members

BD moves to the number of members and compares the numbers of 2022 and 2023, noting a slight increase in membership. This shows that despite the difficult geopolitical situation and the economic recession in China, the membership of the Chamber remains stable.

The number of Patron Members increased from to 16, with Cosco Shipping Lines, EnergyVision, FAMI QS and Pfizer joining us as Patron Members. Some Large Members left us for different reasons.

- 2023: in total 476 members/persons of which
    - Patron members: 16
      - Huawei Technologies Belgium
      - Dewit Law Office
      - Aperol Trading
      - Air Belgium
      - Bank of China (Luxembourg) Brussels Branch
      - Group S – Secretariat Social
      - Group T – International Engineering Academy
      - Kam Yuen Supermarket
      - Hainan Airlines
      - POM Limburg
      - Radisson Collection Grand Place Brussels
      - DHL Global Forwarding (Belgium)
      - Cosco Shipping Lines Belgium
      - EnergyVision
      - FAMI-QS
      - Pfizer
    - Large enterprise member companies: 24
    - SME member companies: 90
    - Individual member companies: 30
- ⇒ 160 corporate members in total

### 2. Ideas for 2023 and general discussion



BD mentions that Mr. Philippe D'Heygere and Mr. Christian Morel will step down from the Board and would like to sincerely thank them for their contribution to the Chamber.

Bart Horsten, whose company is writing the Wechat articles for the Chamber, suggests that our Wechat account is a good way to attract new members and improve the credibility of the Chamber in an organic way. He suggests that members of the Board and General Assembly share BCECC articles via their Moments, and invite their contacts to like and share them. The Chamber has successfully increased its number of followers a lot by having their articles shared by other channels, such as the Wechat account of the Belgian Embassy in China and Limburg in Action. Many of our readers are Chinese entrepreneurs, so Bart suggests to create some more content for a Chinese audience.

BD closes the General Assembly.