



Minutes BCECC General Assembly August 27, 2024

Present

Bernard Dewit, Beijia-Qunjian Liu, Gerard van Damme, Thomas De Beule, Korynna Law, Hélène Blondel, Erik Famaey, Sun Liang, Alexander De Beir, Vincent De Saedeleer, Axel Goethals, Geert Leroy, Bart Horsten, Philippe Mairlot

Excused

Luc Arnouts, Paul Verzele, Lieve Peeters, Liu Jingrui

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 September 7, 2023

BD moves to the approval of the minutes. Minutes of September 7, 2023 are approved without other changes.

2. Activities 2023-2024

BD presents an overview of the past and upcoming activities in 2023 and 2024, of which the most important ones are:

- 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: Event “How can the EU and China work together to address the climate challenge?”
- 09/10/2023: Webinar “Canton Fair Global Share: Discover the benefits of the biggest trade fair in China!”
- 26/10/2023: Webinar “The screening mechanism for foreign FDI: What do you need to know?”
- 09/11/2023: Event “Meet & Greet with the Belgian Ambassador and the Consul General of Shanghai”
- 16/11/2023: Event “Company visit to AC Brussels/Volvo”



- 23/11/2023: Event “On the road to sustainable mobility with green energy”
- 07/12/2023: Webinar “Sourcing in China: Updates & how to diversify your supply chain”
- 14/12/2023: Event “Technology Collaboration with China today: Challenges & opportunities for our companies”
- 19/12/2023: Webinar “Debt sustainability in the world: A global perspective”
- 18/01/2024: Webinar “The Asian Development Bank’s climate commitment & business opportunities”
- 31/01/2024: Webinar “China’s economic forecast for 2024”
- 08/02/2024: Event “The BCECC’s Chinese New Year’s Reception”
- 22/02/2024: Webinar “Life Science Regulations and Opportunities in China”
- 27/02/2024: Webinar “How to avoid common IP mistakes when doing business in China”
- 05/03/2024: Webinar “Ferdinand Verbiest and the discovery of China”
- 12/03/2024: Webinars “Online Business Chinese language courses”
- 12/03/2024: Webinar “The 4th China International Consumer Products Expo (CICPE): Opportunities for your business”
- 26/03/2024: Event “ChinaCareers Event”
- 12/04/2024: Event “2024 China-Europe New Energy Industry Forum”
- 23/04/2024: Event “China (Shaanxi) – Belgium Innovation Cooperation Forum”
- 24/04/2024: Event “Company visit to EnergyVision”
- 26/04/2024: Event “Zhongguancun Forum”
- 07/05/2024: Webinar “China’s 2024 Two Sessions: Implications for European businesses”
- 13/05/2024: Webinar “The Trans-Caspian Corridor: Opportunities for your business”
- 16/05/2024: Event “The Wuhan Economic & Technological Development Zone: Opportunities for foreign companies”
- 17/05/2024: Event “Guided visit of Kanaal (Axel Vervoordt Gallery)”
- 21/05/2024: Webinar “Jörg Wuttke’s reflections on current and future EU-China relations”
- 30/05/2024: Webinar “China’s Advance Tax Ruling system and Golden Tax System: Updates for your business”
- 06/06/2024: Webinar “The New World Economy in 5 Trends”
- 11/06/2024: Event “China (Shenzhen-Luohu) – Belgium (Antwerp) Economic and Trade Cooperation and Exchange Conference”
- 21/06/2024: Event “2024 China (Sichuan) – Belgium Trade and Investment Cooperation Conference”
- 21/06/2024: Event “The China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS): Brussels Overseas Roadshow”
- 29/08/2024: Event “BCECC’s Annual Summer Networking Mixer”



BD presents the last upcoming events for 2024:

- 03/09/2024: Webinar “China’s Third Plenary Session: What do you need to know as a Belgian company?”
- 05/09/2024: Event “China (Shenzhen Qianhai) – Belgium Marine Industry Cooperation Conference”
- 10/09/2024: Event “2024 Shenzhen (Guangming) – Belgium (Brussels) Investment Promotion Exchange Conference”
- 12/09/2024: Event “Meet & Greet with Ambassador Fei Shengchao”
- 18/09/2024: Webinar “China’s Individual Income Tax: Recent updates for foreigners”
- 24/09/2024: Webinar “From EU GDPR to China PIPL: Data regulations in China for foreign companies”
- 01/10/2024: Webinars “Online Business Chinese language courses”
- 07/10/2024: Event “Company visit to Danis Group”
- 21/10/2024: Webinar “European Business in China Position Paper 2024/2025: Implications for EU companies in China”
- 29/10/2024: Webinar with China Brand Consulting about NIS2
- 05-06/11/2024: Seminar “Are there still business opportunities for Flemish companies in China?” during FIT’s International Business Summit
- 14/11/2024: Event “Chengdu Eastern New Area – Brussels Investment Promotion Conference”
- 21/11/2024: Webinar “The Rise of Temu and other web shops and how to deal with them”
- 28/11/2024: Company visit to Halve Maan with BDO
- TBC: Series of webinars about starting to doing business with China
- TBC: Visit to Koen Vanmechelen's Labiomista
- TBC: Webinar with the EU SME Centre
- TBC: China-Belgium Customs Event
- TBC: Webinar with Jean-Pascal van Ypersele about European Green Deal and cooperation with China
- TBC: Event with new Minister President Wallonia
- TBC: Event with Liege airport

3. Finances

3.1. Result & balance sheet 2023

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

The 2023 accounts show the financial status of the Chamber remains very healthy. More than half of the balance sheet consists of own equity, backed up by cash deposits at the bank.



The income and expense statement marks some variation compared to the previous year, but a closer look indicates no drastic change.

Membership fees continue to be the main revenue source, hovering around € 100.000. That is double the amount of subsidies. These we receive primarily from Flanders Investment and Trade under a strategic partnership agreement (for an amount of € 40.000 per year) and also from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Brussels region.

Within the membership fee income, almost half is contributed by the 16 patron members which pay € 2.750, followed by the 24 large companies (at a rate of € 1.000), 90 SME members (€ 375), and 30 individual members (€ 180).

Revenues from events are accounted under two items, activity fees and service fees, the latter consisting in principle of what Chinese visiting delegations pay to the Chamber for hosting events.

On the revenues and expenses statement, the cost of events is not fully covered by income, but underlying are some misplaced entries which we have asked the accountant to correct for next year.

The personnel cost of the Chamber is just above € 100.000 reflecting a small salary increase for the two staff members as well as inflation.

The Chamber does not foresee major changes to the financials in the current year, a lot depending on the number of Chinese delegations coming to visit, but a small decrease in membership might impact the fee revenue.

3.2. Budget Forecast

2023

The Chamber does not foresee major changes to the financials in the current year, a lot depending on the number of Chinese delegations coming to visit, but a small decrease in membership might impact the fee revenue.

2024

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 2023 as well as the budget forecast for 2024, which are all approved by the General Assembly members.



4. Varia

1. Number of members

BD moves to the number of members and compares the numbers of 2023 and 2024, noting a slight decrease in membership.

However, the number of Patron Members increased from 16 to 18, with Amigo Hotel Brussels and Eutraco joining us as Patron Members. Large Members Antwerp Gateway, Ebury, Fipra International, Jan De Nul, John Cockerill and Province of Antwerp stopped their membership for different reasons.

- 2024: in total 449 members/persons of which
 - Patron members: 18
 1. Huawei Technologies Belgium
 2. Dewit Law Office
 3. Aperol Trading
 4. Air Belgium
 5. Bank of China (Luxembourg) Brussels Branch
 6. Group S – Secretariat Social
 7. Kam Yuen Supermarket
 8. Hainan Airlines
 9. POM Limburg
 10. Radisson Collection Grand Place Brussels
 11. DHL Global Forwarding (Belgium)
 12. Cosco Shipping Lines Belgium
 13. EnergyVision
 14. FAMI-QS
 15. Pfizer
 16. Aprojects



17. Eutraco

18. Amigo Hotel Brussels

- 18 Large enterprise member companies
- SME member companies: 86
- Individual member companies: 29

⇒ 151 corporate members in total

2. Ideas for 2024 and general discussion

BD mentions that Mr. Thomas de Beule of A-Law International would be interested in joining as a Board Member of the Chamber. He will be proposed next year for the renewal of the Board.

Gerard van Damme mentions that the Chamber could organize panel discussions about some hot topics, such as electric vehicles, etc.

BD closes the General Assembly.