Invitation to GIGA Forum Weltblicke

A Difficult Balancing Act:
The EU and China between Partnership and Rivalry

**Panelists:**
Dr. Dr. Nele Noesselt (GIGA)
Dr. Stefan Sack (EUCCC)
Dr. Margot Schüller (GIGA)

**Moderator:**
Julia-Niharika Sen (NDR)

Wednesday, 8. Oktober 2014, 6:00–7:30 p.m.
Neuer Jungfernstieg 21, Hamburg, Raum 519

When the Chinese premier Li Keqiang attends the Hamburg Summit on 11 October 2014, everything will revolve around the – not always harmonious – Sino-European relationship. For years both sides have been working to strengthen the partnership, most recently through the approval of the joint Agenda 2020.

Since China’s economic ascent, the country can no longer be excluded from the search for solutions to global problems. At the same time, its increased importance is perceived as a threat in Europe. For instance, the trade conflict surrounding Chinese solar products has been a significant test for the relationship and has demonstrated the rivalry between the partners.

On the eve of the Hamburg Summit, GIGA researchers Nele Noesselt and Margot Schüller, together with the vice president of the EU Chamber of Commerce in China, Stefan Sack, will discuss the global dimensions of the bilateral partnership. Is a Sino-European “axis of world politics” coming into being? What role is the United States playing? How is trade developing between the two regions? Who will benefit most from the planned investment agreement? Stefan Sack will also report on the experiences of European companies in China, which is an investment hub, and on European firms’ market access there.

*Nele Noesselt* is a research fellow at the GIGA Institute of Asian Studies. Her work focuses on foreign policy developments in China.

*Stefan Sack* is vice president and chairman of the board of the Shanghai chapter of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC).

*Margot Schüller* is a senior research fellow at the GIGA Institute of Asian Studies. Her research examines economic developments in China.

*Julia-Niharika Sen* is a freelance journalist for NDR Television and moderates, among other shows, the NDR programme Weltbilder [World Pictures], which features international stories.