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Negotiating EU-China Agricultural-Trade Relations

Lucie Qian Xia

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Negotiating EU-China Agricultural-Trade Relations

Lucie Qian Xia
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IATRC 2017

Introduction

- To-be first ever EU-China International Agreement:

Cooperation on, and Protection of, Geographical Indications

- A geographical indication: a distinctive sign used to identify a product as originating in the territory of a particular country, region or locality where its quality, reputation or other characteristic is linked to its geographical origin

EU-China Negotiations on GIs

- The price of a GI product is 2.23 times the price of a comparable non-GI product
- ‘Rule-making agreement for Asia’



Institutional Actors

- Central Chinese Actors in the Negotiation

Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM)

Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)

State Administration for Industry and
Commerce(SAIC)

General Administration of Quality Supervision,
Inspection and Quarantine of China (AQSIQ)

Institutional Actors

- Central EU Actors in the Negotiation

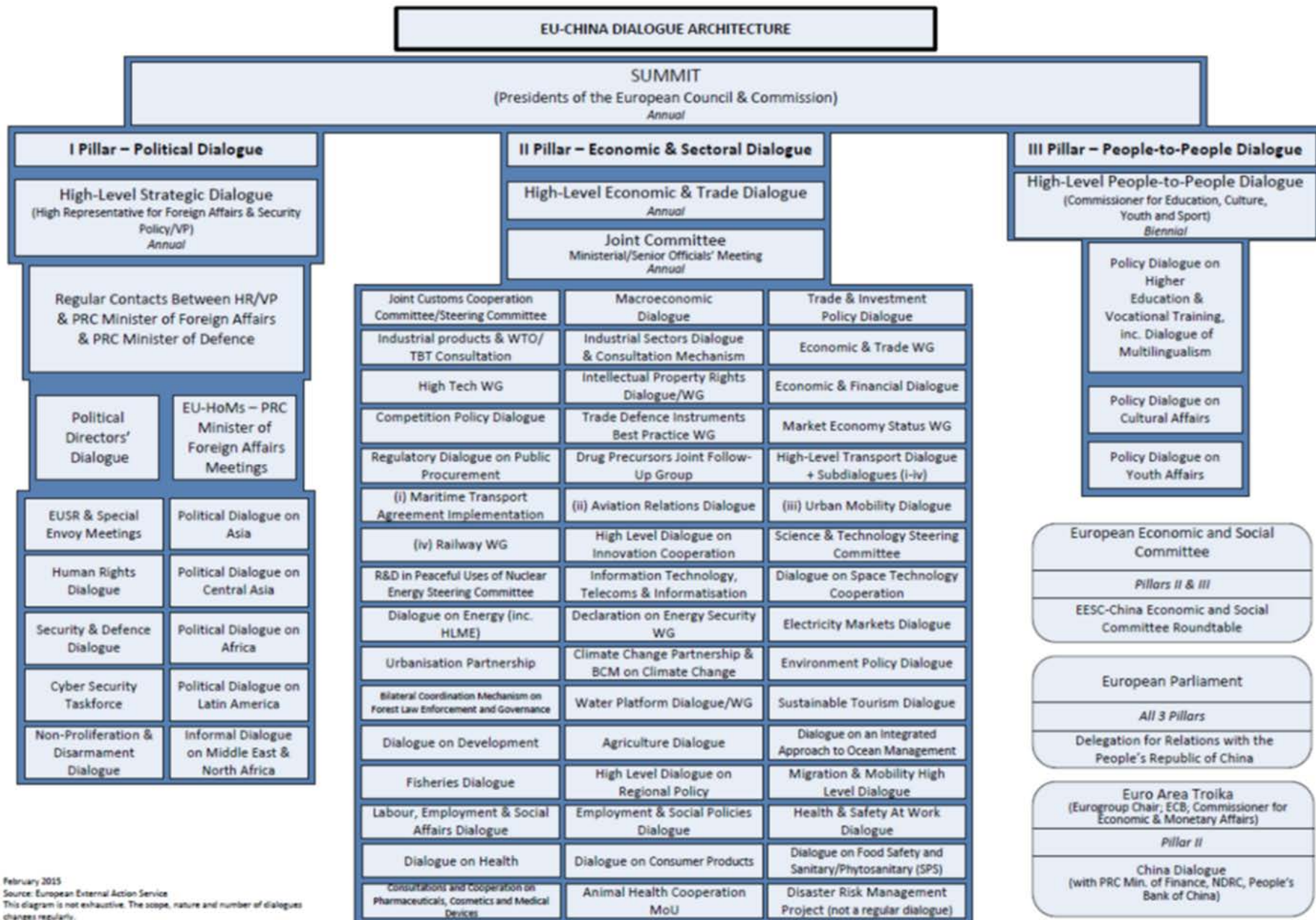
Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission (DG AGRI)

Directorate General for Trade of the European Commission (DG TRADE)

Institutional Actors

EU Institutions	Chinese Institutions
DG AGRI	MOFCOM
DG TRADE	MOA
European Parliament	SAIC
Council of the EU	AQSIQ
EEAS	MOF
EU Delegation to China	MOFA
DG Growth	Chinese Mission to the EU
EU Chamber of Commerce in China	NDRC
EU–China Business Association	State Council
Business Europe	NPC
EuroCommerce	CIIS
EUIPO	CICIR
IPKey	CASS
EUCTP	

Institutional Mechanisms



Institutional Mechanism

Mechanism	Formality
Annual EU-China Summit	President and Premier Level
EU-China Business Summit	President and Premier Level mix Informality
The EU-China High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue	Commissioner for Trade and Vice-Premier Level
EU-China Economic and Trade Joint Committee	Ministerial/Commissioner Level
Formal Negotiation Rounds	Ministerial Level mix President and Premier Level
EU-China Trade and Investment Policy Dialogue	Director General level
EU-China Economic and Trade Working Group	Director Level/ expert-to-expert discussion
EU-China Intellectual Property Rights Dialogue	Deputy Director-General Level
EU-China Intellectual Property Rights Working Group	Deputy Director-General Level mix Informality
EU-China Agriculture Dialogue	Deputy Director-General Level mix Ministerial/Commissioner Level

Negotiation Milestones

- **12** formal negotiation rounds since 2011
- **Milestone 1:** Formal Commencement of the Negotiation in 2011
- **Milestone 2:** Completion of 'Pilot Project' in 2012
- **Milestone 3:** Final Stage since 2015

EU and CN Approaches to Agri-trade

- China and the EU have exhibited contrasting diplomatic styles in the negotiation.
- A strong sense of similarity exists between the EU and China with regard to their support and commitment for the protection of geographical indication.

Conclusion

- Multi-actor: Asymmetry in EU-China institutional dialogue
- Multi-faceted: trade, agriculture, regulatory, legislative
- EU-China agri-trade: Maximise the added value of GI products in both European and Chinese markets
- EU-China relations: Robust and enduring diplomatic relationship (?)



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Thank You!

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