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Europe, China, and Systemic Rivalry: Connecting Europe and Asia and Other Strategies Towards China

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Worsening Sino-American relations is creating increased instability that impacts everyone in our globalized world. Though the battle for supremacy is still ongoing, the balance of power is already shifting. The EU does not escape this situation and has (finally some observers would say) reflected on new policies to address the consequences, on its interests and values, of China's ambitions to become a leading global power. While remaining committed to a comprehensive strategic partnership with Beijing, the EU now considers China as a systemic rival promoting alternative models of governance. The Belt and Road Initiative is an example where the Chinese and the European ways fundamentally diverge. What are the prospects for China-EU relations in this fast-changing geopolitical context and how should the EU respond to China's recent assertiveness?

Xavier Nuttin is Senior Associate and Member of the Advisory Board of the European Institute of Asian Studies (EIAS), an independent think tank based in Brussels. He has devoted most of his career to developing relations between the EU and Asia and has wide experience of Asia since 1978 from three postings in ASEAN countries (as EU diplomat in Thailand and Vietnam and as EU Fellow at the National University of Singapore). Xavier was from June 2005 to March 2018 Senior Asia Analyst in the Policy Unit of the Directorate General for External Affairs of the European Parliament. His responsibilities were to provide, for the parliamentary bodies, tailor-made analysis of Asian countries and to advise on the political aspects of EU-Asia relations. In the late 70s to early 80s, he was based in Bangkok working on education and health programs for UNESCO, UNIFEC, and the World Bank. In 1993, he became an official of the European Commission, working on development cooperation in the Asian Directorate. He was successfully posted at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, at the EC Delegation to Thailand and then to the EC Delegation to Vietnam.

**China Crossroads** hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a "crossroads" of the world and itself at a "crossroads" in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at **editor@shanghai-review.org**.