

# **Jean Monnet Chair**

## ***Jean Monnet Seminars***

### ***European Union - China Relations* by Professor Francis SNYDER**

Professor Francis SNYDER- B.A. Yale University; Fulbright Scholar, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po); J.D. Harvard Law School; Ph.D. Université de Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne). Visiting Full Professor, University of Macau. Centennial Professor, Law Department, London School of Economics; Professeur titulaire, Université Paul Cézanne Aix-Marseille III (France) ; Professor, College of Europe Bruges. EU Jean Monnet Chair *ad personam* (the only Jean Monnet Chair specializing in EU-China relations). Previously Fellow, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (Institute for Advanced Study), Professor of European Law, European University Institute, Florence and Co-Director, Academy of European Law Florence. Founder and Editor-in-Chief of the *European Law Journal*. Academic Director of the London School of Economics – Peking University Summer School and Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Academy of International Trade Law, Macau. Author or editor of 30 books and more than 200 articles on European Union law, international trade law, WTO law, comparative law, law and social science, and EU-China relations. Recent books include *Food Security and Food Safety* (Hague Academy of International Law, 2006); *EU Anti-Dumping Law and China* (China Law Press, 2005), and *International Trade and Customs Law of the European Union* (Butterworths, 1998). Current research on EU antidumping cases against China since 1979.

#### **OUTLINE**

The seminar traces the development of EU-China relations since 1949 and explores significant issues. Special attention is given to the legal framework and to the dynamics underlying current negotiations for a new EU-China agreement.

Many of the current EU Member States have long had diplomatic and commercial relations with China, even leaving aside the extensive pre-20<sup>th</sup> century history of relations between China and Europe. Diplomatic relations between the European Economic Community (EEC) and China started in 1975. Subsequently, these relations expanded as part of the EEC's common commercial policy and Chinese economic reforms. Today the EU and China are 'strategic partners', with a very broad-based relationship, extending far beyond trade. The relationship is certain to gain in

importance with increasing globalisation especially foreign investment and financial interdependence, EU expansion, the re-emergence and development of China, Chinese membership of WTO, and changes in the international trading system and international politics.

EU-China relations have tended to focus on different themes at different periods of time. Initially, after the establishment of diplomatic relations, the European Economic Community (EEC, now the EC) and China concluded bilateral agreements on trade, especially trade in textiles. Subsequently a series of policy papers set a framework for broader relations. On the EU side, the European Commission prepared communications to the Council of the European Union (formerly the Council of Ministers) and the European Parliament. On the Chinese side, a policy paper in 2003, together with several speeches by Chinese leaders, were the principal expressions of policies toward the EU. Within this evolving framework, the EU and China concluded a series of bilateral agreements on an increasing variety of topics. They also agreed on more informal arrangements, more political than legal but sometimes with legal consequences, on a very broad range of subjects. Together with policy papers, the summits, political dialogues and sectoral dialogues provided a framework for a large number of cooperation projects. Relations between the EU and China were not limited to mainland China; they also concerned the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macao and, so far as the GATT is concerned, Taiwan. Before and after the accession of the People's Republic of China to the WTO in 2001, the EU and China concluded bilateral agreements in the shadow of WTO law. Currently, the EU and China are negotiating a new bilateral legal framework for their relationship, taking account of the development of EU-China relations since 1949 as well as of their shared membership of the WTO.