



## **EU-China Investment Agreement: Report of the 16<sup>th</sup> Round of negotiations**

*Brussels – 12 to 15 December 2017*

The 16th round of the EU-China investment agreement negotiations took place in Brussels from the 12th to the 15th of December 2017.

The bilateral talks covered the following provisions and topics: (i) expropriation; (ii) observation of written commitments under the so-called umbrella clause, (iii) national treatment-related exceptions such as general exceptions, sectorial exclusions, special formalities and information requirements; (iv) transparency, including procedural fairness during competition procedures; (v) sustainable development and (vi) financial services.

In particular, the Parties continued text-based discussions for those topics over which exchanges are already advanced, such as expropriation and transparency. On the issues relating to national treatment, the EU and China clarified their respective understanding of the scope and function of the non-discrimination obligations. Lastly, as exchanges on sustainable development, financial services and the umbrella clause are still in an initial stage, the negotiating teams focused mainly on illustrating their respective policy approaches hoping to pave the way for a common approach at a later stage.

Next steps:

The Parties will establish the negotiating agenda for 2018 in early January.