

PRESS RELEASE

TRUMP PRESIDENCY WILL INFLUENCE CHINA'S INVESTMENT POLICY

Vienna, 1 February 2017 – At today's Wolf Theiss China Breakfast, experts were in agreement that China would increase investment in Austria and Southeast Europe in response to the Trump Presidency. Europe's reaction to new expected policies from the Trump administration and the USA will influence geopolitical priorities as Europe strengthens ties with Chinese investors. China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative will play a pivotal role in these developments.

Partner Christian Mikosch, China Desk, Wolf Theiss, notes the dramatic increase of Chinese investment in Europe since 2013. The "One Belt, One Road" initiative has served as an essential catalyst of economic development, he says, symbolising a turn toward Europe and away from the USA. The USA's abandonment of TPP negotiations has only further confirmed this change of course, Mikosch said.

Shan Luo, Head of China Desk, Raiffeisen Bank International AG, agreed, pointing out that Chinese exports to Southeast Europe have increased, from USD 1359.8 million in October 2011 to USD 1781.8 million in October 2016. She predicts that future cooperation will take the form of the transfer of technology, investment funding (M&A), joint partnerships and engineering procurement construction initiatives.

Wolfgang Maurer, Partner, ARACON Consulting GmbH, is of the opinion that US policies will lead China to expand relationships in trade, investment and peacekeeping and to work to eliminate barriers to direct investment. This last initiative is essential, Maurer believes, for the development of an appropriate framework for foreign companies looking to acquire Chinese companies.

Partner Kurt Retter, Wolf Theiss, points to the considerable expertise Wolf Theiss has gained as a traditional law firm advising in foreign investments. With strengths both in investments in China and in Chinese investments in Austria and throughout CEE/SEE, Wolf Theiss can help clients anticipate future developments in China, according to Retter.

The "One Belt, One Road" initiative was announced in late 2013 by Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China. It is intended to create a "silk road economic belt" as well as the "maritime silk road of the 21st century". The initiative goes beyond direct transportation connections between Europe and Asia and aims at creating an infrastructural network throughout Eurasia.

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ABOUT WOLF THEISS

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