

## Press Release

Berlin, 31 May 2017

- **China must get serious about opening up its markets**
- **Joint Venture constraint outdated**
- **Exchange with Merkel and Li as part of the Chinese-German Economic Advisory Committee**

“China must get serious about opening up its markets. The Chinese government’s 20-point plan of January must not remain a marketing tool with which China presents itself to an international audience as a promotor of market liberalisation in a time of growing protectionism. It is now up to China to provide concrete proposals for the realization of the plan, including a uniform implementation of directives and laws or the equal treatment of foreign companies in public tenders.”, said Hubert Lienhard, Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business (APA), on Wednesday in Berlin on the occasion of fourth Chinese-German Economic Advisory Committee, (CGEAC), which was held in Berlin for the first time, with Chancellor Angela Merkel and Chinas Prime Minister Li Keqiang.

“The German market is largely open to foreign investments. This is a good thing because foreign investments benefit us all. In China, however, this openness is not equally returned, this asymmetry is a problem.”, said Lienhard. The APA demands equal treatment for foreign companies in China. This includes, among other things, the abolition of the joint venture requirements in several sectors. Moreover, foreign companies are disadvantaged in public procurement. Protectionism through long-term inspection procedures, import quotas or consumer subsidies make the approval of foreign products and services difficult.

### **About the CGEAC**

The CGEAC brings together German and Chinese business leaders and the heads of government from both sides to jointly discuss difficulties that companies from both sides face in the respective markets. The CGEAC was founded in 2012 in the context of the second German-Chinese governmental consultations. The committee’s last session was held in June 2016 in Beijing. The CGEAC session on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 on the occasion of the Germany visit of Prime Minister Li Keqiang will be the first session held in Germany.

## **About APA**

The Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business is the voice of German business active in Asia-Pacific. APA engages in the dialogue on economic policy with the German government and those in the Asian region. APA voices the concerns and interests of German companies' interests towards Asia-Pacific. APA strives for more intense cooperation with Asia-Pacific and helps promoting trade and investment in both directions. APA is an initiative of the Federation of German Industries (BDI), the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK), the German Asia-Pacific Business Association (OAV), the Federation of German Wholesale, Foreign Trade and Services (BGA) and the Association of German Banks (Bankenverband). Since February 2014 it is chaired by Dr. Hubert Lienhard, President and CEO of Voith GmbH.

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