

The Rise of China

The tectonic plates have been shifting eastwards. How should Western liberal powers respond to an increasingly confident and nationalistic China? Should the UK and the EU distinguish their foreign policies from those of the US and pursue a path of constructive engagement, or regard China as a hegemonic force to be constrained?

The Motion for debate

This House believes China is interested in coexistence rather than domination.

Date: 30th September 2021, 12:00 – 13:30 (CEST)

This hybrid event is both Person to Person, Live from the NLC, and Online

[Register Here](#)

About the event

The Paddy Ashdown Forum in association with **European Liberal Forum** is pleased to co-host an Oxford Union-style debate at the National Liberal Club (with live-streaming) on the controversial topic of The Rise of China

Working Language: English

Programme

12:00 Welcome by Chris Gleadle, CEO of PAF

12:05 Keynote address by Antonios Nestoras, Head of Policy and Research, ELF

12:15 Introduction of Speakers to the debate by Merlene Emerson and Paul Reynolds

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First Vote on the motion

1st Speaker for the motion: [Professor Michael Mainelli, Executive Chairman, Z/Yen Group](#)

2nd Speaker against the motion: [Rebecca Tinsley, author, and Founder of Network for Africa](#)

3rd Speaker for the motion: [Laia Comerma, LYMEC](#)

4th Speaker against the motion: [Dr Tomasz Kaminski, University of Lodz](#)

Second Vote on the motion

12:50 – 13:15 1-minute interventions and Q&A

13:15 **Final Vote** on the motion

13:20 Response by Dr Yeow Poon

13:25 Thanks and closing

Speaker Bios:



Dr Antonios Nestoras is the Head of Policy and Research at the European Liberal Forum, and an adjunct professor at the Brussels School of Governance of the Free University of Brussels (VUB), where he teaches geopolitics and international relations. Over more than 12 years in the academic, think-tank and European public administration fields, his work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, think-tank reports and EU media.



Professor Michael Mainelli is a qualified accountant, securities professional, computer specialist, and management consultant, educated at Harvard University and Trinity College Dublin. He gained his PhD at the London School of Economics where he was also a Visiting Professor. He is co-founder of Z/Yen, the City of London's leading think-tank, promoting societal advance through better finance and technology. Michael is Emeritus Professor & Life Fellow at Gresham College, Fellow of Goodenough College, Honorary Fellow of King's College London, Visiting Professor at UCL's Bartlett School, Past Master of the Worshipful Company of World Traders.



Rebecca Tinsley is a journalist and human rights activist who has worked in nine African countries. She founded Waging Peace, a London-based group campaigning on Darfur, and Network for Africa, a charity working with survivors of genocide. Rebecca completed a law degree at the London School of Economics. She was a former BBC reporter, was on the advisory board of Bennington College, Vermont, and is a trustee of the Bosnian Support Fund. Her third novel, *When The Stars Fall To Earth* (LandMarc) is based on her interviews with the courageous survivors of the genocide in Darfur.



Laia Comerma, LYMEC Bureau, is a researcher at the Barcelona Institute of International Studies (IBEI) and a PhD candidate in International Relations at the University Pompeu Fabra. Her research is focused on EU-China cooperation from a structural and sectorial perspective. She holds a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (UPF-UC3M-UAM), a MSc in International Relations (LSE), and a postgraduate degree in international economy and commerce (UB).



Dr Tomasz Kaminski is assistant professor at the Department of Asian Studies, Faculty of International and Political Studies at the University of Lodz in Poland. He has more than 10 years' experience in project management and business consulting. His foreign policy research has led him to paradiplomacy viz on subnational contacts between European and Chinese regions, and development of transnational networks in SE Asia. In his teaching activities he has developed the concept of gamification and game-based learning.

[Register Here](#)

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