

Towards a triangulation of China-EU-Africa in the areas of trade and investment

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- China-EU 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation released at 16th China-EU Summit (November 2013):
- Enhance consultations on **Africa**, Central Asia, Latin America and the respective neighbourhoods of the China and the EU.

Johannes Pflug (German MP)

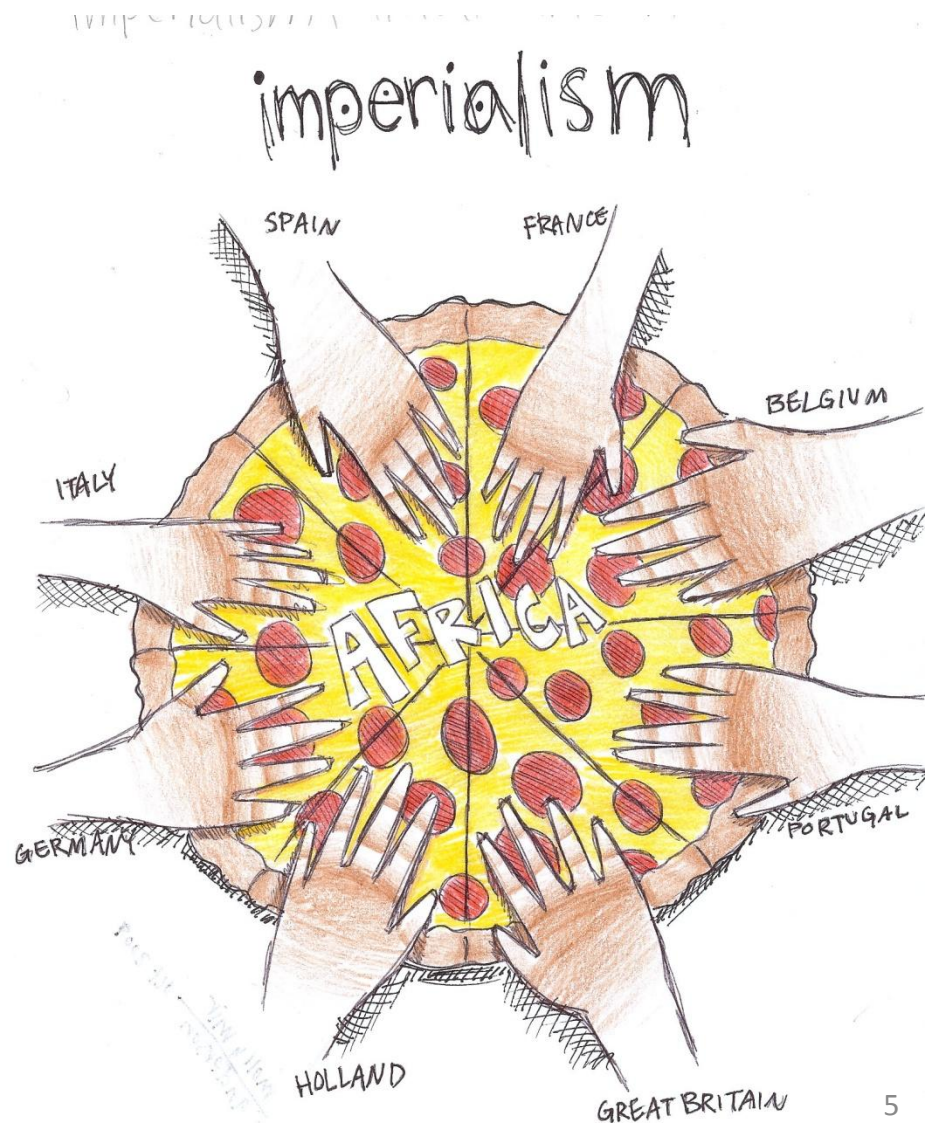
- “China and Europe need Africa...China and Europe have common goals and interests in Africa.”
- “The success or failure of China and the EU in cooperation on African development can be seen ... as a soft-test case for the China-EU strategic partnership.”
- Keynote speech at the conference “China-Europe-Africa Cooperation: Chances and Challenges”, March 14-15, 2008, Shanghai.

How to construct the triangulation



1. Political trust

- China and the EU need to acquire more political trust in constructing the triangulation with Africa.



Agree to disagree

- China and the EU differ in every aspect.
- So their strategy and policies towards Africa should not be expected to be identical.
- They can agree to disagree on the following issues:

Agree to disagree

- Conditionality
- Chinese Labor
- Scramble for resources
- Environmental protection
- ...
- *Put down the tinted glasses.*
- *China is an angel not a devil for Africa.*

2. SDG

- The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



- The SDG is likely to generate greater benefits for Africa.
- So, how to make the SDG more productive to Africa should be the major area of cooperation.

3. Aid for trade

- Both China and the EU have set up aid for trade or trade-related assistance programs for Africa.
- Try to make good use of the synergy of these programs by pooling resources together for the improvement of Africa's infrastructure.

4. A joint investment fund

- China and the EU might be able to establish a joint investment fund to stimulate Africa's investment in its economy.
- It can be built along with the current China-Africa Development Fund of \$10 billion.

5. One-belt-one-road (OBOR)

- Both Africa and the EU have a keen interest in OBOR.
- Trade and investment are the two major components of OBOR's five connectivity.
- So the China-EU-Africa triangulation might fit into OBOR.

A coherent EU foreign policy?

- Johannes Pflug (German MP): “The prerequisite of [a China-EU strategy towards Africa] is that Europe pursues a coherent EU foreign policy. [But] France, the UK and Germany, in particular, do not always pull together in this respect.”
- Keynote speech at the conference “China-Europe-Africa Cooperation: Chances and Challenges”, March 14-15, 2008, Shanghai.

- Thank you.

