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Is there any interest to deal and cooperate with Chinese Clusters? Some suggestions for a chance of a competitiveness recovery...

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Abstract

Over the past 30 years, China has dramatically “re-emerged” to become the world’s greatest manufacturing centre, a vibrant commercial marketplace and a central node in the global economy. Meanwhile, Europe sounds further and further concerned by a “China threat syndrome”, at least the idea that China may now become a source of problems including economic and research issues. However, now and foremost, what is more important than anything else is to integrate the idea that China could become a key partner for Europe. Clusters, that are the fabric of the economy for the future, can just turn the smartest cooperation tool for a chance of recovery.

Whereas clusters are associated with a range of potential benefits, such territorial partnerships also involve costs and risks to turn stagnant, closed, and counter-productive. This self-sufficiency can result in appalling loss of market shares by slowdowns in competitive pressure and technological discontinuities, as well as lead to adverse effects of confinement and internal dependency... By contrast, territorial intelligence and innovation in Clusters’ cooperation could serve as a forceful instrument to counteract those detrimental outcomes. Such a changing world is certainly depending on the accelerated mutations of China, especially within its territories and clusters, and conditions in Europe should be such that more radical changes are needed in its cluster dynamics.

Therefore, this paper examines the prospects for competition and cooperation between Europe and China through the following issues:

1. To what extent do European Clusters have an interest in strengthening cooperation with Chinese partners?;
2. What cooperation approaches would enhance European capabilities while supporting China cooperation?;
3. What could be China’s focus areas in international value chains and new cooperation fields for European partners?