



Brigitte Zypries
Minister of Justice
Member of the German Bundestag



**Welcoming Statement
on the Occasion of the Inauguration
of the China-Europe School of Law
on 23 October 2008 in Beijing**

I would like to welcome you to the inauguration of the China-Europe School of Law. I am delighted that, as a result of the establishment of this new institution, cooperation in legal matters and the dialogue between Europe and China will be further enhanced.

The law makes the peaceful resolution of conflicts possible, it is a guarantor of individual freedom, and it creates the security in economic life which is a precondition for prosperity for all. This enormous significance of the law is the reason why cooperation in legal matters is so important to Germany and Europe.

Germany considers the creation of the School of Law to ideally complement the German-Chinese dialogue on the rule of law. We have been engaging in this dialogue for many years and it has not only contributed to a greater mutual understanding of each other's legal systems, but also to the development of structures consistent with the rule of law. The founding of the China-Europe School of Law represents a project of enormous importance to Germany. The University of Hamburg has played a special role in this cooperation and this constitutes a great honour and distinction for our whole country. I am also very pleased that Ms. Ninon Colneric has a managerial role in the School of Law. She has established a reputation as an outstanding expert on European law and can draw on considerable experience as a judge.

The China-Europe School of Law is a new and unique form of academic exchange and cooperation in legal matters between Europe and China. I am certain that, as a result of this cooperation, our respective parts of the world will not only develop closer ties in the field of law, but that this partnership will also lay important foundations for even closer ties between Europe and China, both culturally and economically.

I would like to wish the China-Europe School of Law all the best for a successful start. I also wish all professors, students and staff the best of luck and every success in their work.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Brigitte Zypries". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brigitte Zypries, Member of the German Bundestag
Minister of Justice
Federal Republic of Germany