

China in Africa - what does the EU think?

João Gomes Cravinho:

I think that the revitalized interest by China in the African continent has been very helpful in focusing the minds of many Europeans on the importance of, of the African continent. Africa is a continent that is important to the world, it's important to Europe, and some Europeans, I think, have been helped by the Chinese interest in, in understanding this reality. So, I think that what has happened over the past few years is that, due to the increased presence of China, various Europeans who were somewhat, I would say, distracted in relation to Africa have been, have been encouraged to look again.

Voice-over 1:

First of all, I think we have to examine the general attitude European countries have towards Chinese involvement in Africa. Certainly, there is the impression that China is the newcomer in Africa's economic relations with the rest of the world. But this isn't entirely accurate. In fact, China has participated in reciprocal aid programmes and co-operation with Africa for fifty years. What China is in the process of doing is the natural and logical development of existing relations, reciprocal aid, friendship and mutual confidence. I think as international understanding grows, Europe will gain a better concept of the positive benefits of the expansion of the Chinese presence in Africa.

João Gomes Cravinho:

Security and development go hand in hand. There is no um, there is no part of the world in which it is possible to think about development if there is not a basic sense of security that is enjoyed by the citizens. I think that China can have a very positive role to play both in terms of development and in terms of security. China and Europe do not always think in the same manner about the security challenges and about development challenges. That is natural. We don't pretend to believe that we have the monopoly of wisdom on either of those fronts. And we believe that Chinese presence in Africa can be very positive both in terms of security and in terms of development. For this, we think it is very important, also, that there should also be a European-Chinese dialogue...

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