

The fourth meeting of the Sino-European Cyber Dialogue (SECD) was convened on 26-27 October 2015 in Beijing, China. The meeting was hosted by the [China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations](#) (CICIR) and [The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies](#). SECD is supported by the Chinese government, a number of European [governments](#) as well as the [European External Action Service](#) .

The delegates agreed that the 4th UN Group of Government Experts (GGE) report was an important and useful step, and especially underlined its conclusion that the UN Charter applied to cyberspace. There was an engaged discussion among delegates on the application of International Law to cyberspace, and the next GGE's member composition. All sides reinforced the need for agreed norms of responsible state behavior and practical confidence building measures as crucial ingredients towards ensuring the stability of cyberspace.

Delegates also discussed the importance of ensuring a trustworthy environment for IT products and services, and their associated data. Facilitating trade was universally considered to be of crucial interest, and both sides remarked on the need to refrain from imposing artificial trade barriers on products, take action against the theft of intellectual property, and against cyber-crime in general.

Within the Dialogue, delegates also agreed that on the issue of data and data-sharing, there was a need to recognize the private sector and indeed the large Internet companies as stakeholders, integrating their involvement in the institutions and the debates, including through public-private partnerships. The delegates acknowledged that the importance of the multi-stakeholder model within the wider cyberspace ecosystem, and within Internet governance in particular.

Looking forward, Delegates discussed the merits of exploring concrete measures towards facilitating cooperation in counter cyber-crime, ensuring escalation control in cyber crisis, and the benefits of more concrete discussions on how to best apply International Law to cyberspace. Hopes were expressed by both sides that SECD could continue to help build this vital transparency and trust.