

International Business Community 國際商界看好香港前景



The heads of several international chambers shared their key takeaway messages from meetings with Central Government officials during HKGCC's business mission to Beijing last month.

Speaking at a press conference on 24 November, the heads of the Italian, Canadian, British, European and German chambers in Hong Kong said they were appreciative of the Central Government's efforts to engage with Hong Kong and international businesses operating here.

HKGCC Chairman Betty Yuen, who led the mission, said one of the main messages of the mission was that the "one country, two systems"

principle would remain unchanged, providing great confidence for the city's business community.

In a broader perspective, President Xi Jinping's and U.S. President Joe Biden's meeting at the APEC Summit in San Francisco indicated that cooperation was in their best interests. "This signals a positive outlook for Hong Kong as a super-connector between the Mainland and the world," said Yuen.

With geopolitics reshaping the business landscape, it was suggested that instead of countries focusing on decoupling or de-risking, perhaps taking a debugging approach to identify problems and see how those can be

removed from the relationship would be more useful for all parties.

Speakers also said the Chamber's recent Business Prospects Survey showed that some businesses in Hong Kong are cautiously optimistic about growth, with 37% of respondents expecting an increase in turnover in 2024 compared to 2023.

However, since the survey was conducted in early November, before the notable warming in U.S.-China relations after the APEC summit, the prevailing sentiment could have potentially improved since then.

The talks with the Central Government during the two-day trip ranged from

macro topics such as current geopolitics to matters closer to Hong Kong and its business community.

The international chambers said they would continue to stress the advantages Hong Kong offers under "one country, two systems" to their stakeholders in Europe and boost international perception of Hong Kong.

The mission to Beijing was a unique experience for many delegates, who saw firsthand the willingness of the Central Government to listen to the Hong Kong business community. There is also a lot of support for international businesses in Hong Kong as well as those looking to enter the Mainland.

Positive about Hong Kong



From left, Alex Tam, Chairman, Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong; Paul McComb, Executive Director, British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong; Agnes Chan, Deputy Chairman, HKGCC; Betty Yuen, Chairman, HKGCC; Jeffrey Lam, LegCo Rep, HKGCC; Iñaki Amate, Chairman, European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong; Johannes Hack, President, German Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong; Davide De Rosa, President, Italian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong & Macao (Zoom).

左起：香港加拿大商會主席譚建中、香港英商會執行董事麥冠明、香港總商會常務副主席陳瑞娟、香港總商會主席阮蘇少涓、香港總商會立法會代表林健鋒、香港歐洲商務協會主席 Iñaki Amate、香港德國商會主席赫佐漢、香港及澳門意大利商會主席戴偉德（視像發言）。

Xia Baolong, Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of CPC Central Committee, told delegates that Hong Kong's contribution to the nation, through its international talent, investment and capital, was key to China's high-level opening up.

During meetings, it was also stressed that Hong Kong plays an important role in the overall development of China, especially as a gateway to the Greater Bay Area, which offers opportunities to investors. The international chambers said they were eager to continue cooperating and looked forward to more such exchanges.

多個國際商會的領導蒞臨總商會，分享上月參加總商會北京商務訪問團期間，多位中央官員傳達的重要訊息。

在 11 月 24 日舉行的記者招待會，意大利、加拿大、英國、歐洲和德國駐港商會的領袖表示，他們感謝中央政府重視與港企及在港經營的國際企業交流溝通。

訪問團團長、總商會主席阮蘇少涓指出，北京之行帶出的其中一個主要訊息，是「一國兩制」原則將維持不變，這給予本港商界莫大信心。

對外方面，國家主席習近平與美國總統拜登在三藩市亞太經合組織峰會上會晤，顯示友好合作符合兩國的最大利益。阮蘇少涓解釋：「這反映香港作為內地與世界各地之間的超級聯繫人，前景一片樂觀。」

隨着地緣政治因素已重塑營商環境，有意見認為各國與其將焦點集中在脫鉤或去風險化，不如以除錯方式找出問題所在，再研究如何消除關係中出現的障礙，這對各方更為有利。

有講者亦指出，總商會最近進行的「商業前景問卷調查」顯示，部分港企對來年經濟增長審慎樂觀，其中有 37% 受訪公司預料 2024 年營業額會較 2023 年增加。

不過，由於今次調查在 11 月初進行，即亞太經合組織峰會閉幕之後，中美關係顯著回暖之前，此後市場氣氛可能已經改善。

在為期兩天的訪問期間，代表團與中央政府探討的議題包括地緣政治最新發展等宏觀課題，以及關乎香港和商界的切身議題。

一眾國際商會表示，他們將繼續向歐洲持份者強調香港在「一國兩制」下的優勢，並協助改善國際社會對香港的印象。

此行為許多團員帶來了難得的體驗。他們親身了解到中央政府十分樂意聽取香港商界的意見，同時大力支持在港營商和有意進入內地市場的國際企業。

中央港澳工作辦公室主任夏寶龍向代表團一行提及，香港在國際人才、投資和資金方面對國家作出的貢獻，對中國高水平對外開放至關重要。

在多場會議上，官員均強調香港在國家整體發展中扮演重要角色，特別是作為大灣區的門戶，能為投資者提供機遇。國際商會表示渴望保持合作，期望未來有更多類似的交流機會。