

Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macao European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Greenway 2025: Accelerating Changes

Hong Kong, 23 June 2025 – The Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macao (“the EU Office”) together with the European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (“EuroCham”) organised “**Greenway 2025: Accelerating Changes**” today, the fourth edition of the flagship sustainability event of the European Union in Hong Kong.

The **Honourable John KC Lee**, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), and **Ambassador Harvey Rouse**, Head of the European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macao, jointly opened the event. In the opening address, **Ambassador Rouse** underlined that “The EU has dispelled one of the foremost myths that addressing climate change holds back economies. Since 1990, the EU has cut emissions by 37% while growing its economy by 68%. The green transformation is not a barrier to growth—it’s a driver! This year’s forum was especially important because it focused on accelerating change. Our planet will not and is not waiting for us. More ambitious and urgent actions are imperative. Sustainability is therefore at the core of our engagement with the Hong Kong government and various stakeholders so we can reach our shared goal of being climate neutral by 2050.”

The EU and Hong Kong share ambitious carbon neutrality and climate targets. Greenway 2025 offered a platform for government officials and leaders from business and civil society to come together to explore pragmatic ways to move ahead on a green transition **that can work for the economy, for businesses and for people.**

This year’s edition focused on advancing green mobility, sustainable finance, circular economy and building green cities. With this event, we aim to further strengthen our collaboration for a greener future. **Secretary for Environment and Ecology of HKSAR Government Tse Chin-wan** and **Acting Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury of HKSAR Government Joseph Chan** delivered keynote presentations.

The EU has been a global leader on sustainability and green growth, setting standards on green technology, green finance and climate change mitigation. European companies constitute the largest foreign business community in Hong Kong and possess unparalleled expertise on sustainability and decarbonisation. They have much to offer to Hong Kong on its path towards carbon neutrality. In three thematic panel discussions, European and Hong Kong speakers shared their insights and formulated recommendations on how to accelerate the transition towards a greener economy, supporting Hong Kong’s target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Key takeaways from the panel discussions included:

1. **Green mobility:** Utilise Hong Kong’s position as a logistic and transport hub to promote sustainable aviation and shipping; increase investment in sustainable fuel

infrastructure, bunkering capacity and supply chain; continue to promote the transition towards electric mobility, clean fuel and in-vehicle technologies for better energy efficiency.

2. **Green finance:** Improve public knowledge and awareness of green finance and green investment to stimulate demand for green financial products; further channel existing capital into green investment and green technologies; support interoperability and harmonisation of green standards with key jurisdictions, including taxonomies and ESG reporting.
3. **Circular economy and green city:** Build on Hong Kong's role as a supply chain management hub to promote sustainable business and corporate due diligence to drive green transformation in Asia; increase the comprehensiveness and efficiency of waste management and recycling systems with closer cooperation between key stakeholders; adopt "Whole Life-Cycle" carbon assessments for construction projects; further incorporate and encourage sustainability features in public procurement rules and tendering practices; provide additional incentives and set rules for the retrofitting of existing buildings for energy efficiency; increase the use of energy ratings and explore mandatory ratings; further incorporate biodiversity protection and low carbon features in new construction projects and urban planning.

The European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong played a central role in convening the expert community that shaped this year's policy recommendations. Built through extensive consultation with its Business Councils and partner organisations, these proposals represent a collaborative effort to align business practice with public policy in the green transition.

Iñaki Amate, Chair of the European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and Patrick Yeung, Chief Executive Officer of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, jointly presented recommendations from the business sector to the Hong Kong Government.

"Greenway is not just an event, it's the outcome of months of collaboration between business leaders, policymakers and civil society. EuroCham is proud to bring forward these recommendations, which reflect the European business community's willingness to be an active partner in Hong Kong's climate transition," said **Iñaki Amate**, Chair of the European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong.

Ambassador Rouse concluded that "Greening our economies requires cooperation and working together. The EU, as the largest foreign business presence in Hong Kong, active in all sectors of the economy, and with bilateral trade of over HK\$ 605 billion, has much to offer. Hong Kong is a trade and transport hub with high expertise in green finance. Today's conference, which I was delighted to open with Chief Executive John Lee, showed again our joint commitment to further deepen our cooperation – not just words but actions!"

The event is also supported by the Business Environment Council, the Consulate General of Sweden in Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce (HKGCC).

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About the Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macao

The Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macao is based in the Hong Kong SAR of the People's Republic of China. In close coordination with the Consulates-General of EU Member States, we promote the interests of the European Union in the two Special Administrative Regions. We engage in dialogue with all pertinent authorities and stakeholders from business and civil society on important issues ranging from trade to climate change and sustainability, people-to-people exchanges, and human rights. To foster a better understanding of the European Union and its values we organise a wide range of public diplomacy events every year.

About the European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

Initiated in 1997, the European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (EuroCham) is a non-governmental business interest group. EuroCham is a “Chamber of Chambers”, and its membership comprises 16 European Chambers based in Hong Kong. The appointed representatives of these chambers make up EuroCham’s Board of Directors. The European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong is a leading business organisation that provides a forum to exchange information and promote and enhance commercial, industrial, financial, scientific, and other economic exchange between Europe, Hong Kong, Macau, and the Greater Bay Area. Through various initiatives and activities, the Chamber creates a thriving environment for trade, investment, and collaboration.