



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 27th May 2021, Beijing

Candidate Motivation Letter

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Chapter: Beijing

Position in the Chamber: Vice President



Motivation Letter

Corona and its aftermath changes and changed the business environment of European companies in China. Market access and equal treatment of European companies have always been challenging topics. However as of recently, business owners and employees were confronted with unprecedented obstacles, ranging from entry restrictions to differential access to shops and public services based on nationality.

The business climate changed, and there is a chance that some of this change will outlive the virus. Under circumstances like these it is even more important that the chamber fights for the interests of private businesses, no matter how big they are. Standing together as European businesses will become more and more important in the future.

The Charter Flight programme in 2020 (so called “Fast Track”), which brought almost 4000 expats and their families back to Qingdao, Shanghai and Tianjin in my view was one of the highlights of successful and constructive lobbying. This project showed once again that aligning interests and talking with each other - rather than about each other in the news - solves real world problems for our members and in this case even reunited families at the height of the epidemic crisis. I was proud to contribute to this project not only by operating the flights via Lufthansa Group, but also as a member of the board of the German Chamber as the organizer and the European Chamber which supported this initiative greatly. I am looking forward to continue in this spirit and contribute to Chamber work focusing on down-to-earth problem solving for all of its members.



Biography

For me personally, China is much more passion than profession. Through my early exposure to China I deeply care about the direct exchange with our Chinese clients, business partners, and friends. I have spent almost my entire career in China. I started as an Associate at McKinsey & Co.'s Beijing office, and then spent seven years at Volkswagen Group China's corporate headquarters. Almost four years ago I moved two streets to the East into the Lufthansa Center, from where I work as Lufthansa Group China's Chief Representative.

Apart from the professional dimension, I have held a close connection to China since my youth. I speak Chinese on a native level and I am officially appointed translator to German courts. During my five-year-long studies at Peking University (as the first German PhD in law) I was able to build up a solid network, particularly in the judiciary and administration. Apart from Chinese, I am fluent in German and Hebrew and read in French and Spanish.

Over the years, I have come to find the similarities between Europe and China much more striking - and sometimes much more surprising - than the differences between us. At the end of the day, both Europe and China want to protect vested interests and wish to be treated with mutual respect. I think that this is the single best starting point for building a sustainable relationship in the long run. I would like to continue contributing this perspective and approach to the Chamber.