

ECIPE PRESS RELEASE, JULY 8, 2013

## NEW POLICY BRIEF:

### **SERIOUS CHINA: The Rise of China and EU Implications**

**In a new paper – based on a talk at an ECIPE conference – Ambassador Frank Lavin, former U.S. Undersecretary of Commerce, argues that China now is a consequential nation and will take up a large role in global economic and foreign policy.**

- In historical context, Lavin argues that from its imperial decline to Communist revolution and subsequent turmoil, China has seen only brief moments of hope until the 1979 reforms, after which it has become perhaps the best performing economy in the world.
- In economy and domestic politics, Lavin argues that though possessing 12% of the global GDP nowadays, China is still facing vast challenges with its huge population living in undeveloped conditions. However, he believes that China's economy growth could still remain on the fast track, with ensuing social stability.
- In foreign policy, Lavin's opinion on China is less optimistic. Due to the limited experience from its history and lack of participation of any international political system so far, China is yet adapting to its rising role on the global stage with a sustained military build-up and regional territorial disputes. China may not be able to fully perform its external reach and influence, as Lavin analyses, with a constrained domestic political environment.
- On the role of Europe regarding China's rise, Lavin argues that Europe has to manage its domestic affairs successfully, particularly its economy, in order to be fully respected by its counterpart. Europe should also improve its current underweight situation by extending its focus beyond its own region, to act strategically in Asia as a whole, as China has been more "serious" than it has ever been before.

[Download the policy brief here](#)

#### **Publication details:**

*SERIOUS CHINA: The Rise of China and EU Implications, By Frank Lavin, ECIPE Policy Brief No. 05/2012*