

Invitation to join the 1st #APRAN European Roundtable on Connectivity, Brussels, 12 September 2017

Time: 14:00 – 17:00

Location: BusinessEurope, Avenue de Cortenbergh 168, Brussels, Belgium

You are kindly invited to participate in the 1st the first **#APRAN European Roundtable meeting on connectivity**, taking place in Brussels on 12 September 2017. Connectivity is a key theme in the EU's relations with Asia, particularly given China's Belt & Road Initiative (OBOR/BRI). This series of roundtables (RT) on connectivity is part of the Asia-Pacific Research and Advice Network (#APRAN) and is organised by #APRAN consortium member Clingendael in cooperation with BusinessEurope and the European External Action Service. It aims to further the exchange between a selected group European business representatives and EU policymakers from diverse sectors and backgrounds **to provide a forum for frank exchange and a fuller and more coherent perspective on connectivity** to stakeholders about bankable opportunities, risks and conditions.

The 1st #APRAN Roundtable on 12 September will bring together about 10 selected representatives from European companies with their counterparts in EU policy-making ("RT members"). The discussion will be moderated by Clingendael and will take place under the Chatham House rule. The focus topic for this first, introductory meeting is **"Risks and Opportunities of BRI for European Business"**.

Agenda

14h00-15h15 Part 1

- Welcome and explanation of the initiative (#APRAN/Clingendael)
- Brief introductions by BusinessEurope and EEAS regarding their roles in the RT
- Tour de table: Perspectives and expectations of RT members

15h15-15h45 Coffee break

15h45-17h00 Part 2

- Focus topic: Risks and opportunities of BRI for European business; introduction of topic and points for discussion (#APRAN/Clingendael)
- Moderated in-depth discussion among participants



How to participate

In case of interest, we would kindly invite you to contact **Maurice Fermont**, adviser on international relations at BusinessEurope at m.fermont@businesseurope.eu. Once you have submitted your nomination, BusinessEurope will confirm your participation. To ensure the success of this roundtable, the organisers seek to invite companies according to a sectoral and geographical spread. To guarantee an informal and exclusive atmosphere for in-depth discussion, participation is limited to one representative per company.

Yours sincerely,

Frans-Paul van der Putten

Senior Research Fellow

Clingendael, as part of #APRAN

Luisa Santos

Director of International Relations

BusinessEurope

Ellis Matthews

Head of Division, China, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Mongolia

European External Action Service

