



SINOPSIS
ČÍNA V KONTEXTU A SOUVISLOSTECH

INVITATION

to the conference

“The PRC, Taiwan, and “One China” in International Relations”

The conference will take place on

Thursday March 16, 2023

at the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic,
Plenary Session Hall of the Senate of the PCR,

Entrance address: Entrance A, Valdštejnské náměstí 4, Praha 1

The conference entitled **“The PRC, Taiwan, and “One China” in International Relations”** will be held under the auspices of Pavel Fischer, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security of the Czech Senate. The event is co-organized by Project Sinopsis and Europeum with the participation of Czech and foreign partners.

The conference aims to clarify the problem of the so-called *One China* – i.e. its origin, historical development and current state – for the comprehension of which a correct understanding of terminology is important, especially of concepts such as *the One China policy* and *the One China principle*. At the same time, this meeting of experts will focus on the implications that this problem has for the development of mutually beneficial relations with Taiwan under declared One China Policy of the Czech Republic.

1) Historical development and its international legal and political consequences

In 1971, Resolution 2758 established the PRC's membership in the UN and expelled "Chiang Kai-shek's representatives", who at that time claimed — like the PRC — sovereignty over "one China", comprising today's PRC as well as the Republic of China (Taiwan). The resolution did not specify Taiwan's status, other than stating that "Chiang Kai-shek" could not represent "China" in the UN.

Subsequent US-China communiqués and other documents that have essentially established the current international diplomatic practice imply a contrasting view on "one China": while the USA "acknowledges" the PRC's stance and accepts the PRC as the sole legitimate government of "one China", it does not elaborate on Taiwan's status and neither accepts nor refutes the PRC's claim on the territory.

This ambiguous approach has become the basis of the fragile status quo "on both sides of the Taiwan Strait" for the last 50 years. The PRC promotes its One China "principle", presenting itself as the sole legitimate government of one China, including Taiwan. The USA and other countries formulate their own One China "policy", meant as practical responses to the PRC's unilateral claims that would preserve their own interests in developing ties with Taiwan. These policies recognize the PRC as the legitimate representative of the notional "one China", but generally do not accept its claims to sovereignty over Taiwan, nor its self-declared right to "(re)unite" with the island, by force if necessary. They treat Taiwan as a *de facto* sovereign state, which, by most measures, it is — with the exception of *de jure* diplomatic recognition by most other states, blocked by the PRC and its one China approach.

PRC's growing assertiveness now threatens the fragile status quo, which has guaranteed peace in the region and the world for half a century. The immediate concern of the outside world therefore lies in safeguarding peace and deterring military aggression that would have devastating global effects, regardless of the outcome. Whatever the claims and counter-claims, peace needs to be maintained.

2) One China, Indo-Pacific, and practical policies of the democratic community

The immediate interest of the democratic world is to maintain peace in the region, which is guaranteed by the current fragile status quo and the de facto parallel existence of the PRC and Taiwan. Any disruption of this status quo would have far-reaching consequences including a possible global conflict. The current status quo is threatened by the PRC's explicit attempts to change it, as a result of its growing power and the changing balance of power in the region.

The most prominent multilateral initiative to maintain peace and defend democracy in the region is the current Indo-Pacific concept, adopted by numerous states in the region and beyond. Taiwan is the unspoken focal point of this concept. Without free Taiwan, there will be no free and open Indo-Pacific. Shifts in the meaning of the terms “principle” and “policy” of One China only obscure the essence of the problem. In this situation, what are the possibilities for practical policies of democratic states in developing ties with Taiwan without unnecessarily antagonising the PRC? What is the actual space for cooperation with Taiwan within the constraints of various countries' respective one China policies?

PROGRAMME

10:00 Opening speech:

Pavel Fischer, Chairperson, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security of the Czech Senate

Dena Brownlow, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission , U. S. Emabssy in the CR

10:15 **Panel 1: Historical development and its international legal and political consequences**

Language: Czech (simultaneous interpreting to English provided)

Hosted by **Kateřina Procházková**, Journalist, Sinopsis

Panelists:

Patrick Rumlár, Deputy Director, Department of Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Táňa Dluhošová, Director, Oriental Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences

Simona Fantová, Analyst, Sinopsis

Martin Hála, Director, Sinopsis

12:15 Lunch break

13:00 **Panel 2: The notion of “One China” in the practical politics of democratic states**

Language: English (simultaneous interpreting to Czech provided)

Hosted by **Martin Hála**, Director, Sinopsis

Panelists:

Matthew Turpin, Former Director for China, U.S. National Security Council

Ketty Chen, Vice President, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

Takashi Hosoda, Researcher, Charles University in Prague

15:00 Closing remarks

Registration: <https://forms.gle/NdRPS6BpiA8Whq1u7>

For capacity reasons, entry is for registered persons only.

For entry into the building you will have to present your valid identity card.

Simultaneous interpretation from/to English and light refreshments will be provided.