



比利时卢森堡中资企业协会

ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE ENTERPRISES IN BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG

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To: Mayor Christoph D'Haese

Werf 9, 9300 Aalst

Brussels, 24 February, 2020

Dear Mayor Christoph D'Haese,

We are writing to express our grave concerns over the inappropriate behavior on float decoration parade in the Aalst Carnaval 2020. This parade disrespectfully fiddled with China's national flag. It is an insult of China and seriously hurts the feelings of the Chinese people.

Recently, the sudden outbreak of new coronavirus in Wuhan, Hubei has claimed over 2000 precious lives in China, touching the hearts of millions of the Chinese people. Every Chinese share the saddest feeling. The Chinese government and people are fighting together with unremitting efforts to prevent and control the contagious disease in a timely manner. All Chinese people are united in solidarity to fight this serious battle against the epidemic. The international community has as well demonstrated a great sympathy and support to fight the pandemic.

However, the parade inappropriate played the epidemic with a satire drawing on Chinese flag and costumed infected person with mask. This misbehavior has crossed the bottom line of civilized society and offended human conscience. The satire drawing is both inappropriate and offensive to us and others in diverse communities throughout the country. The implications go beyond the Belgium Chinese community by advocating a culture of intolerance and perpetuating xenophobic rhetoric. As we live in a global community, no one would be isolated. We, as human being, should fight the virus in one unity. The enemy is the disease rather than the people. When others encounter misfortune, we cannot discriminate against the patients, but demonstrate the sympathy and empathy. All Chinese people are fighting hard against the virus as one unity because we know the force of unity can guide us to conquer any difficulty. The more emergencies arise, the more need for calm, humanity and unity. The purpose of the Aalst Carnaval is to celebrate the happiness. However, the virus is the pain of human kind, not a joke. Given the influence of the Aalst Carnaval event throughout the country, you should be aware that what demonstrated on the parade can influence the Belgium or European society's perception of new coronavirus, which may cause the unnecessary panic about the disease and worries about public health and safety.

As China-invested enterprises in Belgium, we are aiming to serve as a bridge for

economic cooperation, actively promoting cultural exchanges and strengthening the friendship between China and Belgium. The misconduct of the parade deeply hurt our hearts. We express our strong indignation and severely condemn this selfish and ruthless behavior. We demand that the organizers immediately reproach themselves for the mistake and publicly apologize to the Chinese people.

the Association of Chinese Enterprises in Belgium and Luxembourg