

## Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference on October 21, 2016



**Q: China and the Vatican will assign representatives to discuss the appointment of Chinese mainland bishops in Rome before the end of this month. Can you confirm this? Whom will China send? What expectations does China have for that?**

A: I have nothing to offer regarding what you said.

We have stated our position on China-Vatican relations many times. China is sincere in improving China-Vatican relations and has made unremitting efforts to that end. The channel for contact and dialogue between the two sides is open and effective. We are willing to work together with the Vatican, meet each other half way, engage in constructive dialogues, and make headway in improving bilateral relations.

**Q: Leaders of Russia, Germany, France and Ukraine held a meeting on the Ukrainian issue. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on October 20 that all parties agreed on a road map of peacefully resolving the Ukrainian issue. How do you comment?**

A: China supports and speaks highly of the constructive efforts made by the four countries' leaders to politically resolve the Ukrainian crisis. We believe that it helps to implement the new Minsk Agreement. It is hoped that relevant parties can boost confidence, work towards the same direction, earnestly fulfill the new Minsk Agreement, and realize peace and tranquility in Ukraine at an early date.

**Q: The Court of Appeal of Singapore ruled on an investment arbitration case filed by a Macao-based company against Laos, holding that the 1993 China-Laos agreement Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investments applies to Macao. How do you respond to this ruling? How does China handle the application of treaties to Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions (SARs)?**

A: I have noted the ruling made by the Singaporean court. The geographical scope of application of the China-Laos investment agreement is a question of fact concerning acts of state, which is up to the contracting parties to decide. China has confirmed twice in diplomatic notes that the China-Laos investment agreement does not apply to Macao SAR. The ruling made by the Singaporean court on this question of fact is incorrect.

The Chinese side handles the application of treaties to Hong Kong and Macao SARs in line with the "one country, two systems" policy and the Basic Laws in Hong Kong and Macao. To be specific, the Chinese central government decides whether or not the international treaties to which the People's Republic of China is or becomes a party apply to the SARs based on the circumstances and their needs after seeking the views of the governments of the SARs. The SARs can conclude agreements with foreign countries on their own in the appropriate fields, including economy, finance, trade and investment, in accordance with the Basic Laws or under specific authorization of the central government. Therefore, as a principle, the investment agreements between the central government and foreign countries do not apply to SARs, unless otherwise decided by the central government after seeking the views of the SAR governments and consulting with the other contracting parties of the agreement.