

## The future

The new EU-China Partnership and Cooperation Agreement should provide a single framework, covering the range and complexity of their relationship. This is crucial, now that both partners are playing more active and responsible roles on the international stage.

## More information

[ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/china/](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/china/)



Delegation  
of the European Commission  
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**Closer partners,  
growing  
responsibilities** 

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In 2003, the European Union and China launched a comprehensive strategic partnership. This is based on a joint commitment to tackle global challenges, from climate change to financial regulation. The EU is China's biggest trading partner, while China is the EU's largest source of imports and second largest two-way trading partner.

## Framework for cooperation

The main goals of **EU policy towards China** are to:

- ▶ Broaden and deepen dialogue with China, both bilaterally and on the world stage;
- ▶ Support China's opening up process and its transition to a society based on the rule of law and respect for human rights;
- ▶ Encourage China's ongoing integration in the global economy and trading system, while supporting the economic and social reform process;
- ▶ Raise the EU's profile in China to enhance mutual understanding.

The EU and China hold annual summits and regular political, trade and economic dialogues. They also engage in more than 50 sectoral dialogues and agreements, ranging from environmental protection to industrial policy to education and culture.

## Closer partners, growing responsibilities

### Global challenges

- ▶ The EU and China recognise the urgent need to fight climate change. They are committed to a Climate Change Partnership to strengthen cooperation on low carbon technology and to exchange views on key issues in the international climate change negotiations.
- ▶ They are working together to tackle the financial and economic crisis, stimulate global recovery and reject protectionism.
- ▶ Both have pledged to maintain peace and stability and to improve international cooperation in a spirit of equality. They are committed to addressing the challenges of development and to resolving disputes peacefully.

### Trade and investment

In 2008, the EU and China launched a High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue. This is a platform for tackling issues of mutual concern in the areas of trade, investment, market access and protection of intellectual property rights.

### Human Rights

Human rights are mainly discussed between the EU and China as part of their regular political dialogue as well as during specific Human rights dialogues, held twice a year since 1995.

### Towards a new agreement

EU relations with China are governed by the 1985 EU-China Trade and Cooperation Agreement. To reflect the depth and breadth of their strategic partnership, talks began in 2007 to upgrade relations to a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.

