EU-China Relations factsheet

The EU and China established formal diplomatic ties in 1975 and today EU-China relations encompass an annual summit, regular ministerial meetings, and over 60 sectoral dialogues. The EU and China are committed to a comprehensive strategic partnership, as expressed in the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation. The EU’s new Strategy on China, adopted in July 2016, has been followed by a March 2019 strategic stocktaking of the EU-China relationship by the European Commission and the High Representative.

In order to maintain our prosperity, values and social model over the long term, there are areas where the EU needs to adapt to changing economic realities and strengthen its policies. Based on clearly defined interests and principles, the EU should also seek to deepen effective and coherent engagement with China. Given the importance of EU-China economic relations, it is important to maintain very close trade and investment links, while developing a more balanced economic relationship.

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**PROSPERITY**

- The EU is China’s **BIGGEST TRADING PARTNER** while China is the EU’s **SECOND LARGEST TRADING PARTNER**
- Trade in goods between the EU and China is worth well over **€1.7 BILLION** a day
- EU exported to China **€210 BILLION** and imported **€355 BILLION** in 2018
- In 2018 the EU exported **€51 BILLION** of services to China, while China exported **€50 BILLION** to the EU

**THE EU IS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH CHINA A:**

**COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT ON INVESTMENT**

**THIS AGREEMENT SHOULD CREATE:**

- A more level playing field for business
- New market opportunities for both sides

**AND ENCOURAGE CHINA TO:**

- Advance its economic reforms
- Give the market a more decisive role

Paving the way for broader trade ambitions when the conditions are right.