



# EU CHINA RELATIONS



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.

## 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 **€1.5 BILLION** a day



EU exported to China **€198 BILLION** and imported **€375 BILLION** in 2017



In 2017 the EU exported **€45 BILLION** of services to China, while China exported **€28 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.

## STRENGTHENING EU-CHINA CONNECTIVITY



The **EU's Strategy on Connecting Europe and Asia** provides a basis for confident engagement with EU's partners, enabling the Union to seek possible synergies with China in different areas, on the basis of international norms and standards.



The **key principles** of EU's engagement on connectivity are sustainability, transparency, open procurement and level playing field.



The **EU-China Connectivity Platform** aims at promoting sustainable transport corridors based on the principles of the Trans-European Transport networks policy.

## FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

EU-China cooperation was a major factor in first securing the **Iran nuclear agreement** and now in ensuring its full and effective implementation.

The EU and China agree that the **denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula** is essential to ensure stability in the East Asia region and beyond. The EU seeks a regular and substantial dialogue with China on disarmament and non-proliferation issues.



The EU and China work towards fighting **global challenges** and tackling difficult situations in our respective neighbourhoods. The EU wants to work more closely with China to promote peace and security, for example in Afghanistan.

The EU wants to further build on cooperation with China on **peace-keeping and security and defence** matters in Africa. EU and Chinese coordinated approaches to counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and off the Horn of Africa have increased security of shipping in those areas.

## RULE OF LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE



### EU-CHINA HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUE:

The EU will continue to work with China and its people to promote human rights and to foster the rule of law and civil society. A dedicated

**human rights dialogue** is held on an annual basis.



### INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION:

The EU and China support the implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



### SUPPORT FOR GLOBAL STANDARDS AND INSTITUTIONS, EFFECTIVE MULTILATERALISM:

The EU encourages China to play a more active part in the WTO and other multilateral initiatives, in particular strengthening the open, rules-based international trading system. The Joint EU-China **working group on WTO reform** was established in 2018.



### CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY:

Based on the **Paris Agreement**, the EU and China are reinforcing their climate-related cooperation to advance the international climate negotiations process and in areas like carbon markets, long-term development strategies, clean energy and energy efficiency, low emission transport and cities.



### OCEAN GOVERNANCE:

The EU and China signed in 2018 an **ocean partnership agreement** as means to improve the international governance of the oceans in all its aspects, including by combating illegal fishing and promoting a sustainable blue economy.



### COOPERATION IN THE CYBER AREA:

The annual **EU-China Cyber Taskforce** is an opportunity to exchange views in areas such as governmental structure and strategy, norms of responsible State behaviour in cyberspace and cyber confidence building measures.