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 well over €1.7 BILLION a day

EU exported to China €210 BILLION and imported €395 BILLION in 2018

In 2018 the EU exported €51 BILLION of services to China, while China exported €30 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 ased 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 a 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.