



EU CHINA RELATIONS

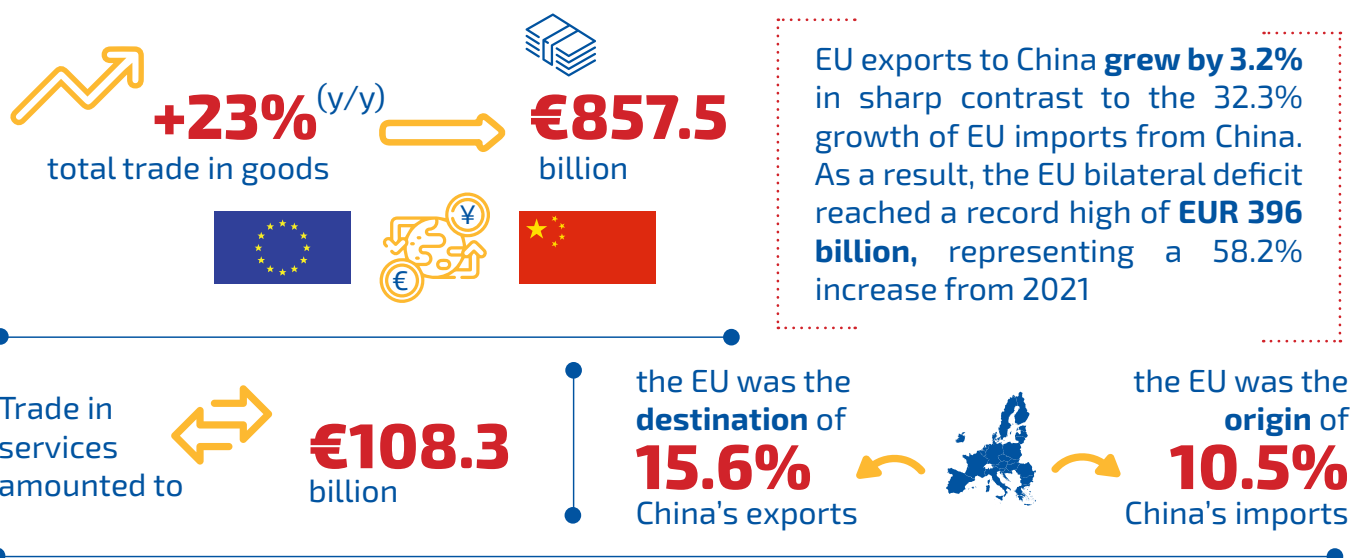
The EU sees China as a **partner for cooperation, an economic competitor and a systemic rival**. However, EU-China relations have become increasingly complex due to a growing number of irritants. China has become less open to the world and more repressive at home, while taking a more assertive posture abroad, resorting to economic coercion, boycotts of European goods, and export controls on critical raw materials.

Our bilateral relations are marked by differences, such as China's position on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, human rights, market access and investment, environment issues, and key foreign and security policy issues. EU-China trade relations have become unbalanced. The EU must ensure a level playing field and make competition fairer. This is why the EU is reducing critical dependencies and vulnerabilities, including in its supply chains, and de-risking and diversifying where necessary.

At the same time, the EU continues to pursue cooperation with China on global issues, such as climate change, debt relief for developing countries, sustainable finance, and bilateral issues.

The **EU-China Summit** on 7 December is an opportunity to discuss a more ambitious relationship that benefits both sides. The EU will engage in good faith, while protecting its interests, and addressing disagreements through dialogue.

TRADE & INVESTMENT (IN 2022)



At the **10th High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue** on 25 September, the EU and China discussed the global macroeconomic situation and various bilateral trade issues. The EU raised concerns about the **deteriorating business environment in China for EU companies, persisting and new trade barriers** and the importance of **fair competition**. The sides also discussed the importance of **transparent and predictable supply chains**.

WTO Reform

The rules-based global trading system must be reformed to respond to the sustainability and digital challenges, and promote a global level playing field. The EU continues to lead these reform efforts. China has benefited from WTO membership, and should play a part commensurate with its economic weight to help achieve these reform objectives.

CLIMATE CHANGE

China's greenhouse gas emissions account for



28%

of the worldwide total

The EU is now responsible for

7%

thanks to its measures to reduce emissions



In 2021, per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions* stand at

10.2t



7.5t



*including Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)

The EU aims to be **climate-neutral by 2050** – an economy with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, zero pollution, and healthy nature. China aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060 and to peak its emissions before 2030.

The **EU-China High Level Dialogue** on the Environment and Climate took place on 4 July. Prior to COP28, the EU and China agreed to increase cooperation on tackling the climate crisis and work closely together to ensure a successful outcome for all parties. Decades of cooperation by the EU and China in multilateral climate negotiations provide a strong foundation. Bilaterally, they cooperate on many areas of climate policy, such as carbon pricing, methane reduction and sustainable finance.

On 12 October, the EU and China held a **High-Level Energy Dialogue** to discuss the clean energy transition and decarbonisation.



DIGITAL, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Many European companies face difficulties in dealing with the complex and often unclear obligations stemming from recent data legislation.

The EU raised this at the **2nd EU-China High-level Digital Dialogue** on 18 September in Beijing, which allowed for in-depth exchanges on digital regulation, artificial intelligence, and ICT standards. The EU and China agreed to set up a mechanism of clarification to facilitate EU companies' compliance with Chinese laws.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The EU consistently speaks out about the **deteriorating human rights situation in China** – in particular systemic human rights violations in **Xinjiang, Tibet, and elsewhere in China**, the treatment of **human rights lawyers and defenders**, and the **erosion of democracy and fundamental freedoms in Hong Kong**.

The **38th EU-China Human Rights Dialogue** took place in February 2023 and allowed for an in-depth exchange on human rights developments in the EU, China and in multilateral fora.

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

The **EU-China Strategic Dialogue** is the key forum for bilateral exchanges on foreign policy and security issues. The 12th Strategic Dialogue took place in Beijing on 13 October, co-chaired by HR/VP Borrell and China's Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi.

China's positioning on **Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine** continues to affect EU-China relations. The EU continues to call on China to exert its considerable influence on Russia to stop its war against Ukraine. The EU asks China to prevent any attempts by Russia to circumvent or undermine the impact of sanctions.

The EU is fully committed to its **One China policy** and consistently calls for resolving any disputes through peaceful means and dialogue.



In the **South China Sea**, the EU supports the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law, notably UNCLOS, and maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight, and to avoid the use or threat of use of military force.

The EU and China regularly discuss **global and regional challenges**, including in the **Middle East, Afghanistan, Myanmar** and the **Korean Peninsula**.