

Connecting Europe with Asia

Asia matters to Europe: it represents 60 % of the global population and accounts for 35 % of EU exports and 45 % of EU imports. In a world of growing global interdependence, Europe and Asia together can be the engines for a more cooperative approach to global challenges. To that end, they should work together to secure efficient and sustainable connectivity.

The European Union has approved a three-pronged strategy for Asian countries, based on efficient connections and networks between Europe and Asia via priority transport corridors (air, sea and land transport); partnerships for sustainable, open, inclusive and rules-based connectivity with Asian countries, and regional and international organisations; and sustainable finance through various financial tools. Digital and energy connectivity will also be crucial. The strategy is based on EU principles, including transparency, high environmental and social standards benefiting local communities, and fiscally and financially sustainable infrastructure projects.

People-to-people connectivity is a key part of the strategy: the connectivity and mobility of students, academics and researchers between Europe and Asia is already a reality and will be bolstered by the Erasmus+ programme, Marie Skłodowska Curie actions, mutual recognition of diplomas, and the regional exchange of researchers and innovators. In the future, the EU will encourage city-to-city cooperation, including links between the EU Capitals of Culture and their counterparts in Asia, and will aim to increase the mobility of artists and cooperation in sport.



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Further information

- [Legislative Train Schedule, Connecting Europe and Asia - Building Blocks for an EU Strategy](#)
- [Prospects for EU-Asia connectivity](#), EPRS briefing, October 2018
- [Connecting Europe and Asia - Building blocks for an EU Strategy](#), European Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Communication