

Security aspects of EU – Asia relations

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Security aspects of EU – Asia relations

- > The new “Indo-Pacific”
- > EU’s leverage

The new “Indo-Pacific”

New context, new concerns

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The new “Indo-Pacific”



EU-Asia trade:
1,4 trillion in 2018

Shifting strategic balance

- West-ward (IO, ME, Africa, Europe)
- Sea-ward (connecting Indian Ocean + Pacific Ocean)
- Focus on trade & connectivity
- Europe back on the map

The new “Indo-Pacific”



China's 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI)

- 'Project of the century' launched in 2013, commercial diplomacy
- CN expansion into the IO – dual use of facilities, Djibouti PLAN base
- "Debt traps", non-transparent & unsustainable investments > impact on EU's unity and security

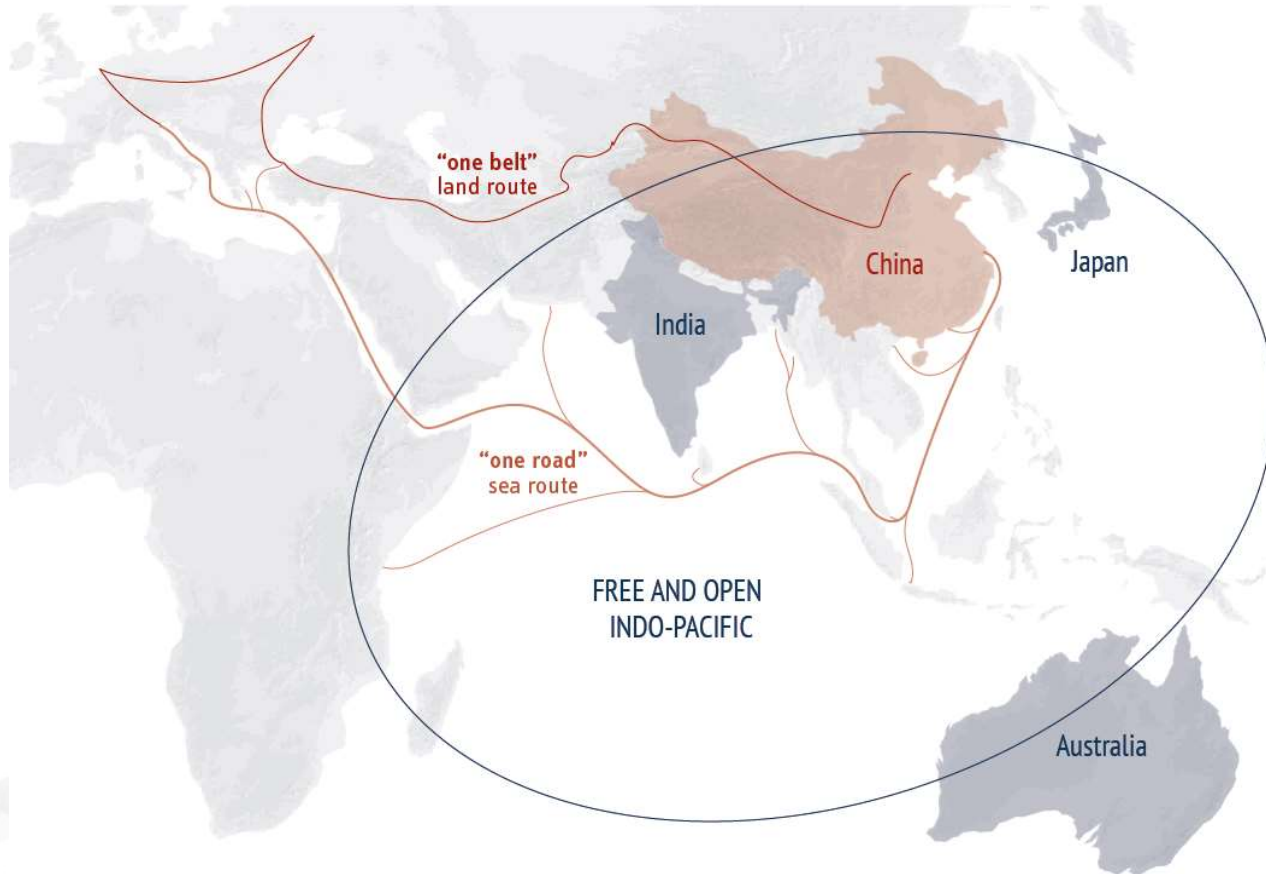
The new “Indo-Pacific”



“Free and Open Indo-Pacific” (FOIP)

- First outlined by Japan (2016); in US and Japan Security Strategies (2017)
- Emergence of India as regional security player
- Quadrilateral Security Dialogue – “the Quad” (JP, IN, AUS, US) revived
- Rule of law, FoN, liberal order, “democratic peace”

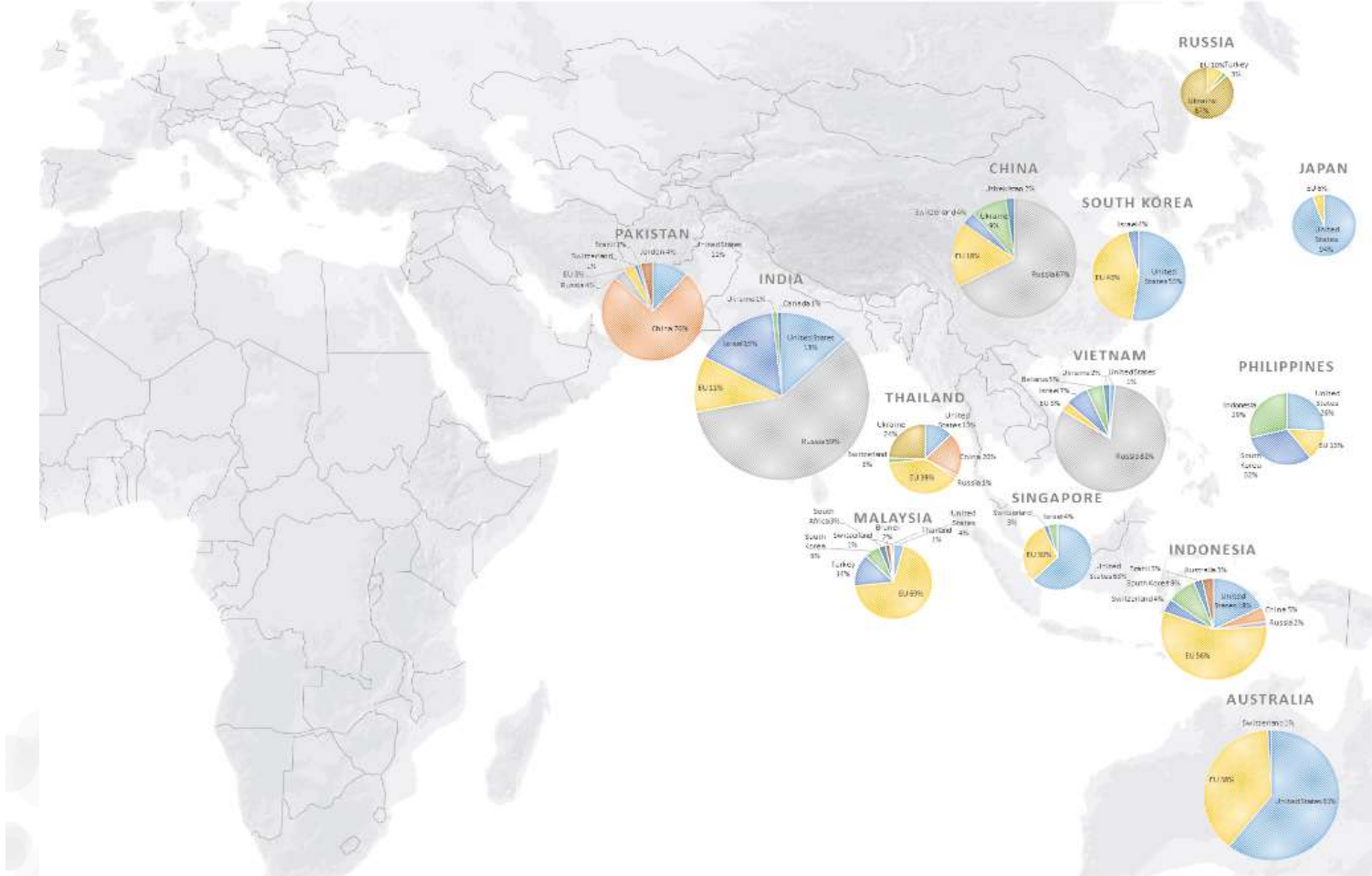
The new “Indo-Pacific”



Volatile security environment

- Strategic rivalry between China and *status quo* powers
- Lasting tensions in SCS, ECS; cold war legacies)
- Neglect of existing multilateral structures (ARF, IORA), non-traditional security, good governance/ cooperative security

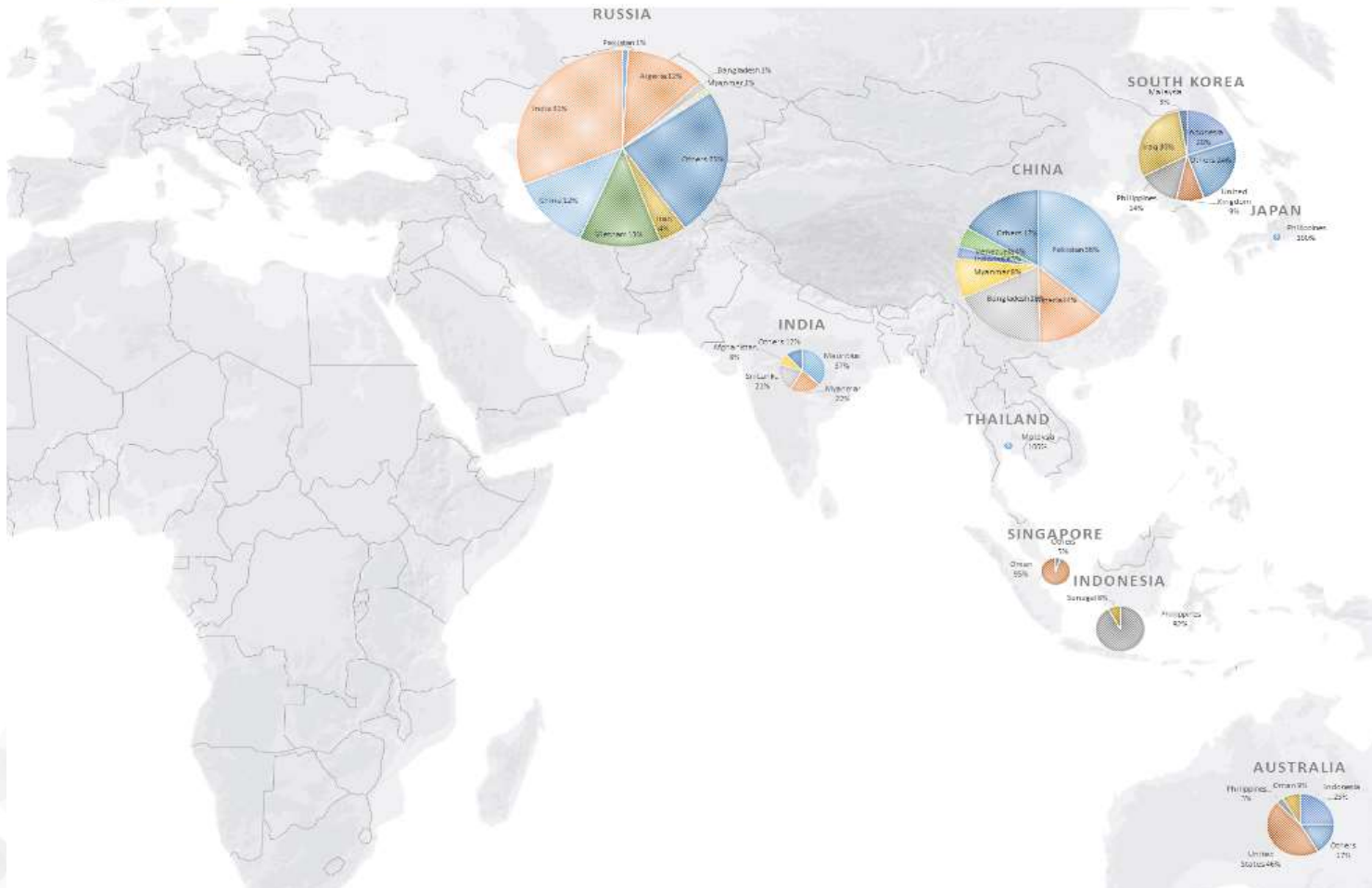
The new “Indo-Pacific”



Asian arms imports (2014 – 2017, SIPRI data)

- Constant rise in since 1975
- 27% of global military spending (477 billion USD in 2017)
- largest import market

The new “Indo-Pacific”



Asian arms exports (2014 – 2017, SIPRI data)

- New actors on the global defence industrial scene: Russia, China (but also the ROK, Indonesia, and Japan)
- New defence dynamic

EU's leverage

More than just normative...

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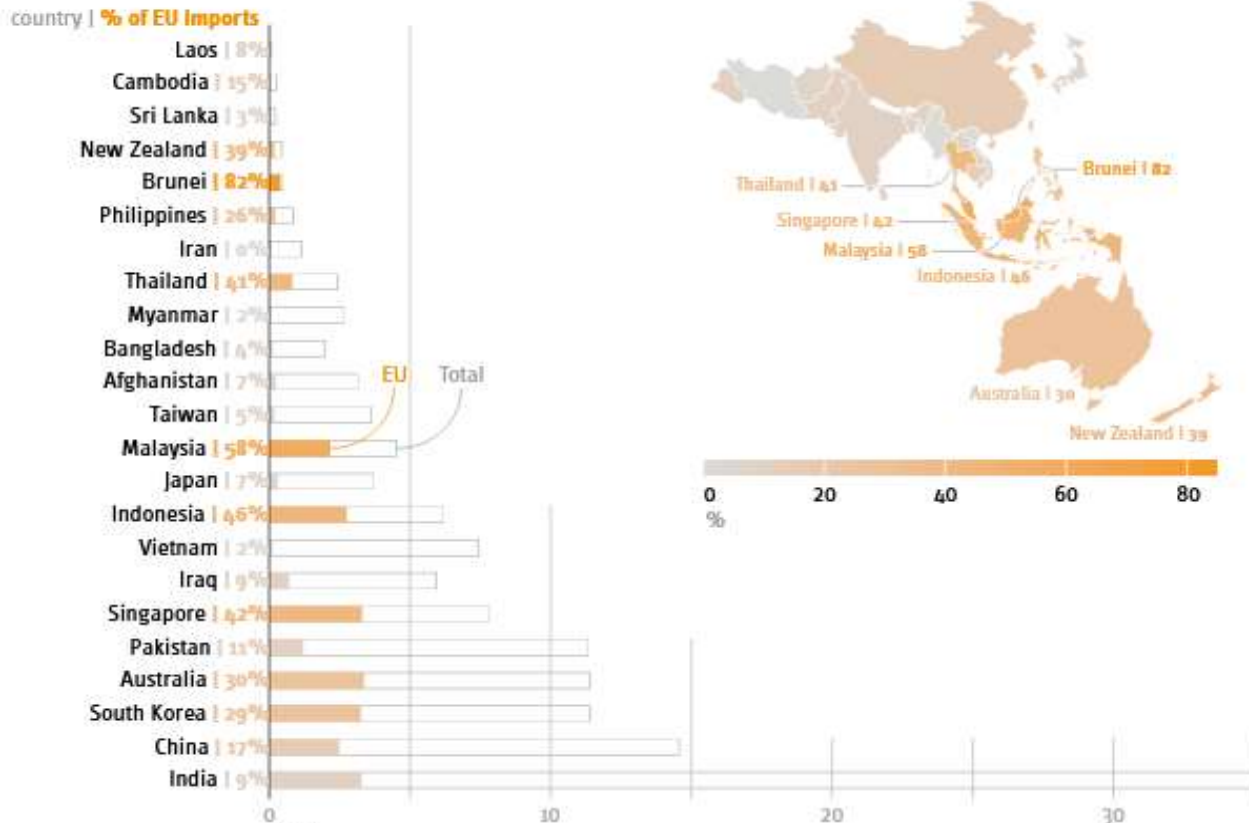
EU's leverage

- Economic: trade relations
- Political: Strategic Partnerships, memberships in regional multilateral fora (ARF)
- Normative: rule of law, liberal values, human rights, crisis prevention, good governance, etc.
- ...but not only!

EU's leverage

The composite image

EU arms imports as share of total imports



Imports from EU member states



EU's arms exports to Asia

(2007 – 2017, SIPRI 'Arms Transfers Database' 2018)



EU's leverage

Country	Arms imports (total) 2007 – 2017 (in millions of US\$)	Of which from EU member states (in millions of US\$)	Of which from EU member states (percentage)
Brunei	490	403	82%
China (PRC)	14,576	2,488	17%
Indonesia	5,972	2,748	46%
Malaysia	3,719	2,166	58%
Philippines	854	219	25.6%
Taiwan	3,648	187	5%
Vietnam	6,206	112	1.8%

Data: SIPRI, 'Arms Transfers Database', 2018

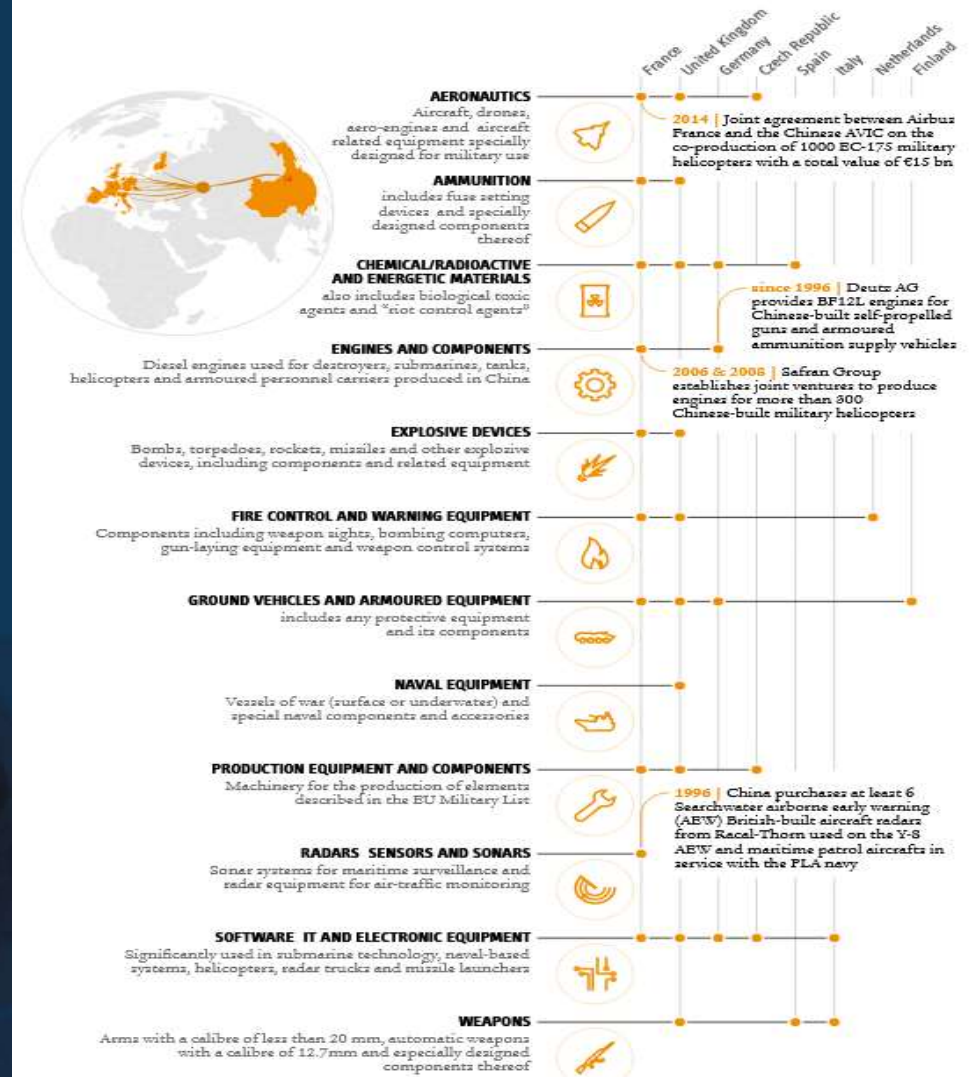
The South China Sea example:

- Promoting peace, but supplying *all* actors (fuelling an "arms race"?)

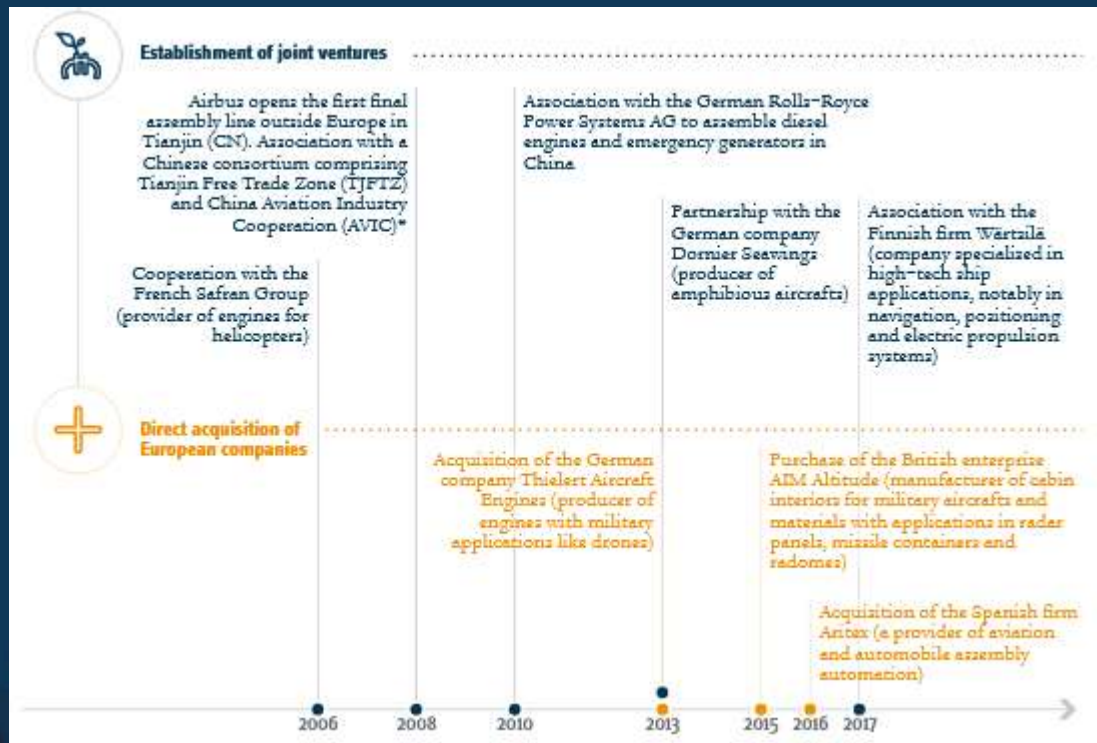
> Lack of coherent strategic thinking?

EU – China ‘dual-use’ technology transfers (tangible)

- > Aeronautics, naval equipment, engines, radars, light weapons...
- > Contributing to CN’s military growth
- > Validity of the arms embargo?



EU's leverage



Non-tangible 'dual-use' technology transfers:

Cooperation in research and education:

- biotechnology, energy, ICT, aviation & space
- Partnerships with Joint Research Centre and European Research Council
- EU –CN Co-funding Mechanism for Research and Innovation
- Bilateral dialogues with EUMS
- Etc.

Boosting the EU's strategic relevance?

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EU strategic relevance?

Arms trade = “business as usual”?

- > Gap between EU and EUMS policies > strategic ambivalence
- > Current legislation on arms trade (2008 Common Position) legally binding, but non-enforceable
- > Dual-use export regulation difficult (debate since 2011)

EU strategic relevance?

- > **Greater strategic autonomy**
 - > Security and defence integration (PESCO, EDF) – shift from civilian power status
- > **More ambitious foreign and security policy**
 - > EUGS 2016 : willingness to step up as a global security provider
- > **Normative added value**
 - > Defender of rules-based order & values, multilateralism, cooperative security, etc.
- > **Functional security cooperation**
 - > MSA/ MDA, law-enforcement/ constabulary, non-proliferation, CBRN, etc.

Thank you

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