

Question for written answer E-002342/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: China's investment activity and the EU strategy on China

China is now an international economic power and an important global trading nation offering opportunities for EU businesses to expand. Importantly, China is the EU's second biggest trade partner, while Europe is the most important destination for foreign direct investment by Chinese companies.

In 2013 the Chinese President announced plans for a New Silk Road. In the plan are two trade routes – land and sea – linking China with over 60 countries in Asia, Europe and Africa. It is a project which will cost hundreds of billions of dollars. A large part of the money will come from a dedicated fund of the Chinese Government and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The Chinese Government claims this project will benefit everyone involved.

Unfortunately, there are increasing reports of European firms having very limited opportunity to tender for infrastructure construction in third countries. This is because China often makes lending conditional on building contracts being awarded solely to Chinese companies. What also happens is that the winning bidders are required to employ Chinese workers and, where possible, to buy Chinese components or raw materials.

In the context of the EU strategy on China and the annual monitoring of the state of relations between the EU and China, how does the Commission view such restrictions which negatively affect European companies?