

China: From partner to rival

According to analysts and politicians, China's increasingly autocratic domestic stance and assertive foreign policy are damaging its relations with the European Union. No substantial agreement was achieved at a virtual EU-China summit on 14 September, despite years of negotiations on many issues, not least on trade and investment. 'For the EU, China is simultaneously (in different policy areas) a cooperation partner, a negotiation partner, an economic competitor and a systemic rival,' the European External Action Service's [background paper](#) says.

Formally, the EU and China have been strategic partners since 2003 – a partnership that was broadened five years ago by the [EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation](#). However, more recently, EU officials and politicians have been expressing increasing concerns over China's economic expansionism and human rights violations. The current coronavirus pandemic and developments in Hong Kong have had a marked negative impact on EU-China relations.

This note offers links to **recent commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks** on China, its ties with the EU and related issues.

EU-China

[Non-summit shows EU-China ties at new low](#)

Bruegel, September 2020

[Towards tougher bilateral relations between EU and China](#)

Institut français des relations internationales, September 2020

[The new China consensus: How Europe is growing wary of Beijing](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, September 2020

[The EU-China relationship](#)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, September 2020

[Europe, the US and China: A love-hate triangle?](#)

Centre for European Reform, September 2020

[It's time for NATO and the EU to have a serious conversation about China](#)

Friends of Europe, September 2020

[EU-China relations: State of the art and new perspectives](#)

Istituto Affari Internazionali, September 2020

[Relocating production from China to Central Europe? Not so fast!](#)

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[The missing partnership: The United States, Europe, and China's economic challenge](#)

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[China and the EU in the Western Balkans A zero-sum game?](#)

Clingendael, August 2020

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[The pandemic, power rivalries and the EU](#)

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[Europe's digital sovereignty: From rulemaker to superpower in the age of US-China rivalry](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, July 2020

[The meaning of systemic rivalry: Europe and China beyond the pandemic](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, May 2020

[Hong Kong calls: Can Europe respond?](#)

Carnegie Europe, May 2020

Other studies and commentaries

[China's 'dual circulation' plan is bad news for others' exports](#)

Bruegel, September 2020

[The cacophony of powers: International politics in the 2020s](#)

Istituto Affari Internazionali, September 2020

[Europe's global test](#)

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[The race for critical minerals in an era of geopolitical realignments](#)

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[How US-China tensions could hamper development efforts](#)

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[Lessons from the Trump administration's policy experiment on China](#)

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[China's structural power and the fate of the BCIM economic corridor](#)

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[China's system of oppression in Xinjiang: How it developed and how to curb it](#)

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[Will the U.S. stance on Chinese telecom equipment change?](#)

European Centre for International Political Economy, September 2020

[Returning to the shadows: China, Pakistan, and the fate of CPEC](#)

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[An answer to aggression: How to push back against Beijing](#)

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[The Sino-Russian normative partnership in action](#)

European Union Institute for Security Studies, August 2020

[US-China phase one tracker: China's purchases of US goods](#)

Peterson Institute for International Economics, August 2020

[Differentiated cooperation in European Foreign Policy: The challenge of coherence](#)

European Policy Centre, August 2020

[Fewer Chinese investments in the US are raising national security concerns](#)

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[Debunking the myth of 'debt-trap diplomacy': How recipient countries shape China's Belt and Road Initiative](#)

Chatham House, August 2020

[Arms and influence? Chinese arms transfers to Africa in context](#)

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[How 'democratic security' can protect Europe from a rising China](#)

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[Despite the rhetoric, US-China financial decoupling is not happening](#)

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[Mask wars: China's exports of medical goods in times of Covid-19](#)

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[Masks off: Chinese coronavirus assistance in Europe](#)

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[European fear of 'missing out' and narratives on China in Africa](#)

European Think Tank Group, July 2020

[China has blown its historic opportunity](#)

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[China has an unfair advantage in the EU Market: What can be done to level the playing field?](#)

Bruegel, July 2020

[China's targeted corporate shopping spree to continue, especially in Europe](#)

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[China and the Trans-Pacific Partnership: In or out?](#)

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[Australia's strategic shift to the United States infuriates China](#)

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[China's focus remains firmly fixed on domestic problems](#)

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[East Asia decouples from the United States: Trade war, Covid-19, and East Asia's new trade blocs](#)

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[China's Indian Ocean ambitions: Investment, influence, and military advantage](#)

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[Reading tea leaves from China's two sessions: Large monetary and fiscal stimulus and still no growth guarantee](#)

Bruegel, May 2020

[How images frame China's role in African development](#)

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