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Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Special Committee on the European Democracy Shield

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**JOINT PUBLIC HEARING on**  
***China's influence in the EU and globally***

**Wednesday, 5 November 2025, 16:00-18:30**  
European Parliament, Brussels (Room: Spinelli 3E2)

**PROGRAMME**

**16:00 - 16:10 Opening session**

Opening remarks by **Ms Nathalie LOISEAU**, Chair of the EUDS Special Committee

Opening remarks by **Ms Hana JALLOUL MURO**, Vice-Chair of the AFET Committee

**16:10 - 17:15 Panel discussion 1: China's influence in the European Union**

**Ms Ivana KARÁSKOVÁ**, China Team Lead, Association for International Affairs  
*China's political influence: soft power, propaganda, disinformation and influence operations*

**Mr Jacob GUNTER**, Head of Program Economy and Industry, Mercator Institute for China Studies  
*Chinese economic influence and investments in the EU*

**Mr Tim RÜHLIG**, Senior Analyst for Asia/Global China, EU Institute for Security Studies  
*China's technological influence, EU digital and technological dependencies and vulnerability*

**17:15 - 18:20 Panel discussion 2: China's influence on the global arena**

**Dr Andreea BRÎNZĂ**, Researcher on China's Belt and Road Initiative  
*Beyond Infrastructure: The Belt and Road Initiative as a Vehicle for Chinese Influence in Africa and Latin America?*

**Dr Richard TURCSÁNYI**, Program Director, Central European Institute of Asian Studies  
*Reshaping Global Governance: China's Strategy to Influence International Organizations and Reframe International Law*

**Mr Grzegorz STEC**, Head of Brussels Office/Senior Analyst, Mercator Institute for China Studies  
*China's Strategic Foothold in the Western Balkans: Infrastructure, Digital Networks, and Geopolitical Leverage in the EU's Neighbourhood*

**18:20 - 18:30 Conclusions**

Closing remarks by **Ms Hana JALLOUL MURO**, Vice-Chair of the AFET Committee

Closing remarks by **Ms Nathalie LOISEAU**, Chair of the EUDS Special Committee