



**2021/2041(INI)**

23.4.2021

## **DRAFT REPORT**

on a European Parliament recommendation to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on EU-Taiwan political relations and cooperation (2021/2041(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Charlie Weimers

## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RECOMMENDATION .....	3

## DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RECOMMENDATION

### to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on EU-Taiwan political relations and cooperation (2021/2041(INI))

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to yearly European Parliament reports on CFSP and their sections concerning EU-Taiwan relations,
  - having regard to the EU-Taiwan Industrial Policy Dialogue Mechanism (IPD), established in 2015,
  - having regard to Taiwan’s participation in the Enterprise Europe Network, the European Cluster Cooperation Platform and the Dialogue on Digital Economy,
  - having regard to the cooperation agreements to fight commercial fraud, and to Taiwan’s implementation as of 2017 of international standards of tax good governance,
  - having regard to Taiwan’s successful cooperation and participation in the European Union Framework Programmes (EUFPs),
  - having regard to the EU-Taiwan Labour Consultation established in 2018,
  - having regard to the EU visa waiver for Taiwanese passport holders since 2011,
  - having regard to the EU One-China policy,
  - having regard to Rule 118 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A9-0000/2021),
- A. whereas the EU and Taiwan are like-minded partners that share common values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law;
- B. whereas China’s continued military belligerence against Taiwan poses a grave threat to the status quo between Taiwan and China, as well as to the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific region;
- C. whereas Taiwan’s efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus have proven to be among the most effective in the world;
- D. whereas the EU remains the largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) to Taiwan, with an accumulated value of EUR 48 billion up to 2019, accounting for 31 % of Taiwan’s inward FDI;
- E. whereas the total amount of bilateral trade between the EU and Taiwan reached EUR 51 billion in 2019, with Taiwan being the EU’s 5th largest trading partner in Asia

and its 15th largest trading partner in the world;

1. Recommends that the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy:
  - (a) works closely with the Member States to upgrade EU-Taiwan political relations and to elevate them to a comprehensive and enhanced partnership with the official signing of a respective agreement;
  - (b) prepares an impact assessment on a Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) with Taiwan before the end of 2021 in preparation for negotiations to deepen bilateral economic ties;
  - (c) expresses grave concern over China's continued military belligerence against Taiwan; urges China to desist from any destabilising activities against Taiwan, and insists that any change to cross-strait relations must not be made against the will of Taiwanese citizens; urges the Commission to take a proactive role in working with like-minded international partners to safeguard peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and to sustain democracy in Taiwan;
  - (d) strongly advocates for Taiwan's full participation as an observer in meetings, mechanisms and activities of international bodies, including the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
  - (e) encourages increased official exchanges between the EU and Taiwan, including at the highest levels, so as to fully reflect the dynamic, multi-faceted and close cooperation between the EU and Taiwan as like-minded partners;
  - (f) includes Taiwan as an important EU partner and regional economic power in the upcoming Indo-Pacific Strategy currently being prepared by the EEAS;
  - (g) continues to adopt initiatives to enhance bilateral economic relations and people-to-people contacts, including in academia and civil society;
  - (h) encourages dialogue and cooperation with Taiwan in all industrial sectors and supply chains, in particular emerging industries and industries of strategic importance such as electronic vehicles, robotics and smart manufacturing, as well as semiconductor technologies;
  - (i) supports initiatives allowing the EU to engage in partnerships with Taiwan in the fields of ICT, biotech, health and connectivity;
  - (j) encourages the EU and Member States to deepen cooperation with Taiwan in confronting disinformation from malign third countries, including the sharing of best-practices;
  - (k) further promotes the existing EU-Taiwan R&I collaboration in the Horizon Europe Framework Programme (2021-2027);

- (l) further promotes tourism and youth exchanges with Taiwan through initiatives such as working holiday or the Erasmus programmes and to explore opportunities of cooperation in higher education and other areas;
  - (m) changes the name of the European Economic and Trade Office in Taiwan to ‘European Union Office in Taipei’ in order to reflect the broad scope of our ties;
  - (n) commends Taiwan as an outstanding partner in promoting human rights and freedom of religion in the Indo-Pacific region; requests the EU Special Representative for Human Rights to participate in international human rights conventions in Taiwan and to take concrete actions to work with Taiwan to advance human rights and religious freedom, the digital economy and sustainable growth of the developing countries in the Indo-Pacific region;
  - (o) strengthens cooperation with Taiwan with a view to exchanging best practices in handling the COVID-19 pandemic and continuing to enhance the EU’s cooperation with Taiwan in health and communicable disease control;
  - (p) commends Taiwan’s acts of solidarity with the EU, as demonstrated by the donation of over 7 million surgical masks to several Member States during the pandemic;
  - (q) continues to encourage the sharing of intelligence and the joint fight against cross-border crimes between Member States and Taiwan;
  - (r) encourages Member States which do not have an Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion or a Tax Information Exchange Agreement with Taiwan to initiate negotiations on such agreements as soon as possible;
2. Instructs its President to forward this recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, as well as the Government of Taiwan.