



2021/2037(INI)

27.4.2021

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on A new EU-China strategy
(2021/2037(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Iuliu Winkler

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that in 2020 China for the first time ranked as the EU's largest partner for trade in goods, with the trade balance further deteriorating to the EU's detriment;
2. Is convinced that the EU-China bilateral trade and investment relationship is of strategic importance and should be rules-based, with the multilateral trading system at its core;
3. Is concerned about the increasingly unbalanced EU-China bilateral economic and trade relationship; stresses that rebalancing and a more level playing field are vital to EU interests;
4. Repeats its deep concern about the many barriers that European businesses face when accessing and operating on the Chinese market; is worried that China's 'dual circulation strategy' referred to in its 14th Five Year Plan will further deteriorate the business environment for EU companies; highlights again its particular concern about the market distorting practices of Chinese state-owned enterprises, forced technology transfers and data localisation, industrial overcapacity in sectors such as steel and the related dumping of exports, and other unfair trading practices;
5. Welcomes the conclusion at the political level of the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI); recalls that the CAI has to be considered in the context of a strengthened EU toolbox of unilateral measures; underlines it will thoroughly scrutinise the agreement, including its sustainable development section, and take stock of the human rights context, before determining its position;
6. Welcomes the entry into force of the EU-China Agreement on geographical indications, and reiterates the importance of effective implementation of the Agreement.