

Press release
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FTA
Foreign Trade Association

EUROPEAN RETAILERS WELCOME IMPROVED TRADE DIALOGUE BETWEEN EUROPE AND CHINA

China and the European Union confirmed last week in Brussels their commitment for increasing bilateral trade and for working together towards a swift conclusion of the Doha Round. EU and China will push for further economic cooperation and increased business opportunities, against the economic and financial downturn. European retailers strongly support this approach.

The second meeting of the EU-China High Level Trade and Economic Dialogue, held in Brussels on the 7 and 8 of May, was focused on “improving business opportunities in time of crisis”. Commissioner Ashton and the Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan confirmed their commitment to improve trade dialogue and to coordinate efforts for boosting WTO trade negotiations. The meeting covered key issues such as trade and investments, customs cooperation, consumer protection and intellectual property rights.

“The European retailers warmly welcome the strengthened cooperation between Europe and China”, said Jan Eggert, Secretary General of the Foreign Trade Association FTA. “We strongly support the efforts of the European and Chinese leaders and we wish that the EU-China Summit that will be held in Prague later this month will be a very fruitful meeting. We are firmly convinced that, for the benefit of both parties, the trade dialogue between the EU and China should be boosted.”

Europe’s import from China has grown by around 18% per year in the last 5 years. China is Europe’s biggest source of manufactured products for the EU. In 2008, the European Union imported 248 billion Euro worth of goods from China. Two decades ago China and Europe traded almost nothing.

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The FTA is the association for European commerce that specialises in foreign trade issues. It is committed to achieving its goal of a true free trade environment. For 30 years it has supported its members, consisting of national trade associations and companies from all over Europe, by providing expertise and up-to-date information and by campaigning on their behalf against protectionist measures in the European and international arena.

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