

Press release
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FTA
Foreign Trade Association

EU-CHINA SUMMIT OF 30 NOVEMBER: THE EUROPEAN RETAILERS' VIEWPOINT

The Foreign Trade Association (FTA), representing European retailers and importers on foreign trade issues, strongly supports the new EU-China strategic partnership that will be on the agenda of the EU–China Summit of the 30 November

The EU and China will hold their annual Summit in Nanjing next Monday 30 November. The global economy and the state of the play of the EU–China trade relations will be on the agenda.

The European retailers strongly encourage Europe and China to put trade and investments at the core of the bilateral relations and to streamline their cooperation for boosting global trade.

The FTA fully supports the position expressed by Catherine Ashton in their position of EU Trade Commissioner that “trade and investments will lead us out of the current crisis and that a swift conclusion of the Doha Round will help us trade our way out of recession”.

It is now time for the EU and China to take action and implement their commitments for a genuine cooperation.

Unfortunately the high number of antidumping measures against China bears the risk of affecting negatively the relations between EU and China. The FTA believes that the Commission’s conclusions in some of the antidumping investigations– and in particular on the current footwear case- are questionable.

On the other hand, despite some impressive progress, China still needs to complete its commitments under WTO to its intellectual property regime. IPR infringement has a serious impact on European companies.

Moreover, more cooperation is needed between EU and China under the Customs Cooperation Agreement for harmonizing customs practices and ensuring transparency of the custom clearance process.

“China and the EU have a common interest in a stable and internationally agreed framework for trade and investments” said Jan Eggert, FTA Secretary General, “and we expect them to take action and streamline this cooperation”

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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