



## **EU-China leaders' meeting via video conference 14 September 2020**

A EU-China leaders' meeting will take place on 14 September 2020 via videoconference. The EU will be represented by Charles Michel, President of the European Council and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel for the Council Presidency. President Xi Jinping will represent China. The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, will also participate.

The meeting follows the 22nd EU-China summit held by VTC with Prime Minister Li Keqiang and the VTC with President Xi Jinping on 22 June 2020. It will be an opportunity to continue the discussions and assess progress made on EU-China bilateral relations, including on climate change, economic and trade issues.

Leaders are also expected to discuss international and other issues of concern and exchange views on responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Meeting webpage](#)

### **Media programme**

14:00	Video conference with Chinese President Xi Jinping
Followed by	Press conference

*Press conferences and public events by video streaming:* <http://video.consilium.europa.eu>

*Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery on:* <http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/>

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<sup>1</sup> This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

## **Climate change and biodiversity**

EU leaders will welcome the establishment of the dialogue channel between Executive Vice President (EVP) Timmermans and Vice-Premier Han Zheng on climate change and environment and discuss ways to strengthen cooperation in this area.

EU leaders will also reiterate the need for greater ambition and commitment on the Chinese side in terms of emissions targets, climate neutrality or outcomes of COP15 on biodiversity hosted by China in 2021.

## **Trade and investment**

The EU-China High Level Trade and Economic Dialogue in July has resulted in some progress on the Comprehensive Investment Agreement (CAI). However, EU leaders are expected to stress to President Xi Jinping the importance to accelerate the negotiations in other areas in order to conclude the negotiations for an ambitious agreement by the end of the year.

Leaders will also welcome the signature of the Agreement on the Protection of Geographical Indications which delivers on the commitment made at the 2019 EU-China Summit and further strengthens the bilateral trading relationship, and is expected to take place in the morning.

During the meeting, EU leaders are expected to raise also other matters, such as the reform of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), overcapacity or issues related to the digital sector. On 10 September 2020, a EU-China High Level Digital Dialogue took place with EVP Vestager.

## **Covid-19 response**

On the response to COVID-19, the meeting will be an opportunity to continue discussions on both the health response and the socio-economic recovery. The EU will defend its vision for the recovery efforts to result in a more sustainable, more resilient and safer world and will encourage China to embrace a similar path with its own stimulus package.

Both sides are expected to support multilateralism and the importance of solidarity and international cooperation. Specifically, leaders will discuss global cooperation in the field of treatment and vaccine research. The EU will also continue to call on China to fully participate in the WHO independent review of lessons learned from the international health response to COVID-19.

In line with EU's support for solidarity and international cooperation in addressing the consequences of the pandemic, the EU leaders will encourage China to step up its engagement on debt relief, which is essential to create the conditions for recovery from the pandemic on the African continent.

## **International and other issues of concern**

EU will reiterate to President Xi Jinping its commitment to human rights and the rule of law as a core of EU's engagement with China. In this context, EU will underline its expectation of having a face-to-face Human Rights Dialogue in China this year.

EU leaders will also raise their concerns on the deteriorating situation in Hong Kong and in the South China sea.

## Background

The European Union and China are two of the three largest economies and traders in the world. The EU and China established formal diplomatic ties in 1975 and today EU-China relations include an annual summit, regular ministerial meetings, and over 60 sectoral dialogues. The EU and China are committed to a comprehensive strategic partnership, as expressed in the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation.

The EU's Strategy on China, adopted in July 2016, was followed by a strategic outlook of the EU-China relationship by the European Commission and the High Representative in March 2019.

### More information:

[EU-China summit via VTC, 22 June 2020](#)

[EU-China: a strategic outlook - March 2019](#)

[EU-China relations factsheet \(EEAS\)](#)

[EU trade relations with China \(European Commission\)](#)

[EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment](#)

[EU-China Agreement on the Protection of Geographical Indications](#)