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Content

1. Economic and Trade Friction Cases about China

1.1 China Adds 7 EU Entities to Export Control List	1
1.2 China Lifts Countermeasures Against Two EU Financial Institutions	1
1.3 China Blocks Foreign Acquisition of Manus Project	2
1.4 China Firmly Opposes EU's Russia-Related Sanctions Targeting Chinese Firms ...	2
1.5 China Warns Against U.S. Export Control Bills, Vows to Defend Firms' Interests .	3
1.6 EU Act Poses Serious Investment Barriers, Institutional Discrimination	4
1.7 China Urges U.S. to Stop Abuse of Sanctions, Long-Arm Jurisdiction	5

2. China Policies/Regulations

2.1 China to Grant Zero-Tariff Treatment to All African Countries With Diplomatic Ties	5
2.2 China Allows Foreign Investors to Trade Treasury Bond Futures	6
2.3 China Builds Cyber Legal Framework With Over 180 Laws, Regulations	6
2.4 China Adopts Law to Strengthen Social Assistance System	7

3. China Economic and Trade Information

3.1 China Slams U.S. Allegations Over Port Issues in Panama as Hypocritical Politicization	8
3.2 Chinese, U.S. Business Communities Have Strong Willingness to Deepen Cooperation	8

3.3 China to Hold Summit in May to Promote Global Trade, Investment 9

3.4 China's Commerce Ministry Stresses Equal IPR Protection for Domestic, Foreign
Investors 10

3.5 China Reports 14 Mineral Reserves as World's Largest 11

3.6 Domestic Gas and Oil Production Helps China Weather Global Headwinds 11

3.7 Solar Capacity to Outshine Coal Power in 2026 12

1. Economic and Trade Friction Cases about China

1.1 China Adds 7 EU Entities to Export Control List

On April 24, 2026, China's Ministry of Commerce announced that it has decided to add seven European Union (EU) entities to its export control list to safeguard national security and interests and fulfill international non-proliferation obligations.

Export operators are prohibited from exporting dual-use items to these seven entities, which are FN Herstal, Fabrique Nationale de Herstal; OMNIPOL a.s.; HENSOLDT AG; EXCALIBUR ARMY spol.s.r.o; SPACEKNOW INC., odstepny zavod s.r.o; VZLU AEROSPACE a.s.; and FN Browning, according to an announcement released by the ministry.

Overseas organizations and individuals are prohibited from transferring or providing dual-use items originating in China to these entities. Any related activities currently underway must be halted immediately, the ministry said.

Dual-use items are goods, technologies, or services that could be used for either civil purposes or military purposes, or to contribute to an increase in military potential, especially in the design, development, production, or use of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

1.2 China Lifts Countermeasures Against Two EU Financial Institutions

China has decided that, effective from April 24, 2026, the relevant countermeasures imposed on two banks in the EU, namely UAB Urbo Bankas and AB Mano Bankas, shall be lifted, and the two shall also be removed from the countermeasure list.

This decision, pursuant to the country's Anti-Foreign Sanctions Law and the regulation on the implementation of the law, has been reached in view of the fact that the EU announced the revocation of sanctions against two Chinese financial institutions on April 23, 2026, according to a statement by the Ministry of Commerce.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

1.3 China Blocks Foreign Acquisition of Manus Project

China has prohibited the foreign acquisition of the Manus project and ordered the parties involved to unwind the deal, the office overseeing the country's foreign investment security review mechanism said on April 27, 2026.

The decision was issued by the office under the National Development and Reform Commission, which stated that it barred the investment in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.

(Edited from China Daily.)

1.4 China Firmly Opposes EU's Russia-Related Sanctions Targeting Chinese Firms

China is strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposes the EU's move to include Chinese companies in its 20th package of sanctions against Russia, despite China's repeated representations and objections, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce said on April 25, 2026.

China has repeatedly reaffirmed its firm opposition to unilateral sanctions imposed without authorization from the United Nations Security Council and strongly rejects the EU's so-called long-arm jurisdiction over Chinese companies and individuals, the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson noted that the EU's move runs counter to the spirit of the consensus reached between Chinese and EU leaders, and it has

seriously undermined mutual trust and the overall China-EU relationship.

China urges the EU to immediately remove Chinese enterprises and individuals from the sanctions list, uphold the spirit of the leaders' consensus, and address respective concerns through dialogue and consultation, the spokesperson said.

China will take necessary measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises, the spokesperson said, adding that the EU side will bear all consequences.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

1.5 China Warns Against U.S. Export Control Bills, Vows to Defend Firms' Interests

On April 25, 2026, China warned against a package of export control legislation of the U.S. House of Representatives, reiterating its opposition to the over-extension of the concept of national security and the abuse of export controls.

The U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee recently passed the Multilateral Alignment of Technology Controls on Hardware, known as the MATCH Act, and several other export control bills.

The spokesperson of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce said if enacted, the relevant bills would seriously undermine the international economic and trade order and significantly disrupt the stability of global semiconductor industrial and supply chains.

China will closely monitor the legislative process, carefully assess the impact on Chinese interests, and take resolute and necessary measures to firmly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises, the spokesperson said.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

1.6 EU Act Poses Serious Investment Barriers, Institutional Discrimination

On April 27, 2026, China's Ministry of Commerce said that the EU's Industrial Accelerator Act (IAA) poses serious investment barriers and constitutes institutional discrimination.

A ministry spokesperson said the Act imposes multiple restrictive requirements on foreign investment in four strategic emerging industries -- batteries, electric vehicles, photovoltaics and critical raw materials -- and includes exclusionary EU origin clauses in public procurement and public support policies.

The ministry has formally submitted comments to the European Commission, expressing China's position and serious concerns over the legislation.

In the comments, China argued that the legislation is suspected of violating fundamental principles including most-favored-nation treatment and national treatment. It poses discrimination against Chinese investors, and will slow the EU's green transition and undermine fair competition in the EU market.

China urged the EU to remove discriminatory requirements against foreign investors, local content requirements, mandatory intellectual property and technology transfer requirements, and public procurement restrictions from the legislation.

The spokesperson said that China will closely monitor the legislative process and is willing to engage in dialogue with the EU.

However, if the EU disregards China's comments and pushes ahead with enacting the legislation, causing damage to Chinese companies' interests, China will take countermeasures to firmly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises, the spokesperson said.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

1.7 China Urges U.S. to Stop Abuse of Sanctions, Long-Arm Jurisdiction

China urges the U.S. to abandon the wrong practice of abuse of sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction, foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said on April 27, 2026 at a daily press briefing, after the U.S. had recently imposed sanctions on relevant Chinese oil refinery allegedly on account of "links to Iran."

Noting China always opposes unilateral illicit sanctions that have no basis in international law, Lin said China will firmly safeguard the lawful rights and interests of Chinese companies.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

2. China Policies/Regulations

2.1 China to Grant Zero-Tariff Treatment to All African Countries With Diplomatic Ties

China will expand zero-tariff treatment to all African countries that have diplomatic relations with it starting May 1, 2026, Chinese authorities announced on April 28, 2026.

From May 1, 2026 to April 30, 2028, China will grant zero-tariff treatment, in the form of a preferential tariff rate, to 20 African countries that have established diplomatic ties with China and are not classified as the least developed countries, according to an announcement by the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council.

For 33 least developed African countries with diplomatic relations, China has already granted zero-tariff treatment on 100 percent of tariff lines since Dec. 1, 2024.

With the expanded policy taking effect on May 1, China will become the

first major economy to provide unilateral, full-coverage zero-tariff treatment to all African countries with diplomatic ties, and to all least developed countries with diplomatic relations.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

2.2 China Allows Foreign Investors to Trade Treasury Bond Futures

On April 24, 2026, China's securities regulator announced that qualified foreign investors have been allowed to participate in treasury bond futures trading starting from the same day, with trading activities limited to hedging purposes.

The China Securities Regulatory Commission said in a statement that the move is part of the efforts to broaden the investment scope for qualified foreign investors and enrich interest rate risk management tools available to foreign institutional investors.

The policy is also expected to enhance the appeal of yuan-denominated bond assets, improve the stability of foreign institutional investment behaviors and push forward the high-quality development of both spot and futures markets for bonds, according to the regulator.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

2.3 China Builds Cyber Legal Framework With Over 180 Laws, Regulations

On April 28, 2026, the Cyberspace Administration of China released a report reviewing the progress in the rule of law in China's cyberspace over the past few years. According to the report, China has basically established a complete legal system tailored to the development of the internet, with more than 180 cyber-related laws and regulations enacted as of December 2025.

It said that in 2025, China strengthened its basic cybersecurity and informatization systems via legislation, enhanced cyber law enforcement mechanisms, and expanded the use of digital technologies in judicial work. Moreover, the country also intensified public education on cyber legal rules and played a more active role in shaping international cyberspace rules last year, the report said.

To better protect the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese internet users, China stepped up efforts for cyber law enforcement in 2025. Its national cyberspace authorities summoned 5,811 websites and platforms for talks, issued 1,646 warnings, imposed fines on 521 websites and platforms, and shut down 9,637 websites and apps, according to the report.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

2.4 China Adopts Law to Strengthen Social Assistance System

On April 30, 2026, China's top legislature voted to adopt a law on social assistance, aimed at strengthening basic living support and providing a stronger safety net for vulnerable groups.

The law will take effect on July 1, 2026.

With 78 articles in seven chapters, the law sets out general provisions, beneficiaries and types of assistance, assistance procedures, participation of social forces, supervision and safeguards, legal liabilities, and others.

The social assistance law, a foundational piece of social security legislation, provides solid legal guarantees to promote the development of high-quality social assistance and ensure that all Chinese people benefit from the country's reform and development.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

3. China Economic and Trade Information

3.1 China Slams U.S. Allegations Over Port Issues in Panama as Hypocritical Politicization

U.S. allegations against China on the relevant port issues in Panama are completely unfounded and a distortion of facts, and it is the United States that has politicized and securitized port issues, it is also the United States that has been feigning innocence while spreading rumors and smears, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said on April 29, 2026.

Lin made the remarks at a regular news briefing when asked to comment on the allegations made by officials from the United States and other countries that China poses a threat to Panama and China's actions are blatant attempt to politicize maritime trade.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

3.2 Chinese, U.S. Business Communities Have Strong Willingness to Deepen Cooperation

Chinese and U.S. business communities have shown a strong willingness to strengthen cooperation, Wang Guannan, spokesperson of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), told a press conference on April 29, 2026.

Despite a complex and challenging external environment, data clearly shows that the two economies remain deeply intertwined, with cooperation continuing to be the prevailing theme, according to the CCPIT.

About 52 percent of surveyed U.S.-funded enterprises in China expected to be profitable in 2025, up 6 percentage points from the previous year, while more than half of the surveyed companies continued to rank China

among their top three global investment destinations, the CCPIT said, citing the 2026 American Business in China White Paper released by the American Chamber of Commerce in China (AmCham China).

Ongoing business exchanges have also reflected the resilience of bilateral economic ties. The CCPIT said it has implemented 65 projects in 2026 involving Chinese companies participating in or hosting exhibitions in the United States, covering a total exhibition area of 24,600 square meters and attracting more than 1,600 Chinese enterprises.

Regarding the upcoming fourth China International Supply Chain Expo, Wang said the participation by U.S. companies at this year's event will further expand. Enterprises from both countries will deepen cooperation in sectors including artificial intelligence, semiconductors, medical technology and high-end manufacturing through the expo.

The CCPIT will continue to contribute to the stable, sound and sustainable development of China-U.S. relations, Wang said.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

3.3 China to Hold Summit in May to Promote Global Trade, Investment

The Global Trade and Investment Promotion Summit 2026 will be held in Beijing on May 18, the CCPIT announced on April 29, 2026.

The summit will focus on new requirements outlined in the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for developing new quality productive forces, as well as new trends and hotspots in the global economy, CCPIT spokesperson Wang Guannan told a press conference.

Other areas of focus will include the artificial intelligence wave and its role in boosting innovative development in trade and investment, and the promotion of in-depth integration between the service sector and manufacturing, according to Wang.

The summit will also release a Beijing Initiative, calling on the global business community to jointly foster new engines for world economic growth and create a more resilient, sustainable and mutually beneficial development landscape.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

3.4 China's Commerce Ministry Stresses Equal IPR Protection for Domestic, Foreign Investors

On April 24, 2026, China's Ministry of Commerce reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring equal intellectual property rights (IPR) protection for domestic and foreign investors.

In this regard, the ministry has effectively implemented policies to improve the business environment for foreign investors, while stepping up its crackdown on infringements of foreign investors' IPR, said ministry official Yu Ning at a press conference.

The ministry has worked to deepen international exchanges on IPR protection, Yu noted, adding that bilateral exchange mechanisms with economies including the European Union, Russia and Canada have been fully utilized.

While advancing negotiations on IPR rules under free trade agreements, the ministry has worked with its foreign counterparts to strengthen IPR rule-making in emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, and encouraged free trade pilot zones nationwide to explore more effective approaches to IPR protection, the official said.

Thanks to increasingly robust IPR protection, China's innovation capabilities have continued to improve, with the country entering the top 10 for the first time in the World Intellectual Property Organization's Global Innovation Index 2025.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

3.5 China Reports 14 Mineral Reserves as World's Largest

China holds the world's largest reserves of 14 mineral resources, including rare earths, tungsten, tin, molybdenum, antimony, gallium, germanium, indium, fluorite and graphite, its latest mineral resource data showed.

In 2025, the country also ranked first globally in the production of 17 mineral resources, including coal, vanadium, titanium, zinc, rare earths, tungsten, tin, molybdenum, antimony, gallium, indium, gold, and tellurium, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources on April 29, 2026.

China's mining industry output reached approximately 32.7 trillion yuan (about 4.77 trillion U.S. dollars) in 2025, accounting for more than 23 percent of the country's GDP, underscoring its position as the world's largest in mineral production, smelting and processing.

China is also a dominant supplier to the global smelting and processing industries, officials with the ministry told a press conference on April 29, 2026, adding that China's resource base helps secure the stable industrial chains of the country as well as the development of its emerging sectors, while also contributing to global livelihoods.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

3.6 Domestic Gas and Oil Production Helps China Weather Global Headwinds

China secured stable domestic oil and gas supply in the first quarter, effectively dampening external shocks from global geopolitical tensions, including conflicts involving the Middle East, according to authorities.

Output of crude oil and natural gas from major industrial enterprises rose 1.3 percent and 3.0 percent year-on-year, respectively, during the first quarter, Xing Yiteng, deputy director of the National Energy

Administration's Department of Development Planning, said during a press conference held in Beijing on April 27, 2026.

Coal production remained steady against a high comparison base last year, with a mild 0.1 percent year-on-year growth in output of major industrial coal producers, he said.

According to Xing, energy investment maintained robust growth in the quarter, giving strong impetus to the rebound of national fixed-asset investment.

Power grid expansion and safety upgrades gathered pace, alongside accelerated investment in hydrogen energy, coal-to-fuel projects, and new energy storage. Private enterprises have also deepened participation in key national energy research initiatives as well, he said.

(Edited from China Daily.)

3.7 Solar Capacity to Outshine Coal Power in 2026

China's installed solar power capacity is expected to surpass that of coal power for the first time in 2026, as the country's transition toward green and low-carbon energy accelerates, according to an industry report released on April 28, 2026.

The forecast was published by the China Electricity Council (CEC) in its analysis report on the national power supply and demand for the first quarter of 2026.

Total power consumption in 2026 is expected to range between 10.9 and 11 trillion kWh, a year-on-year growth of 5 to 6 percent. The council expects the country to add more than 400 million kW of new power generation capacity throughout 2026, with new energy contributing over 300 million kW to that total.

By the end of the year, combined wind and solar power capacity will account for half of China's total installed power generation capacity, with solar capacity alone eclipsing coal for the first time in history, it said.

(Edited from China Daily.)



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