

EU-China Summit: a renewed partnership among US “trade foes”?

EUROCHAMBRES has ample expectations for the 20th EU-China Summit leading to concrete results in terms of market opening for European business. The worrying and escalating trade feud between the US and China should embolden Europe and China to strengthen the multilateral rule-based trading system and for China to deliver more on market access for European firms.

“Europe and China’s continued economic success will depend on our ability to maintain mutual trust. Trust that our companies and investments will not be discriminated against and that we can compete openly and fairly on each other’s markets. The Summit should deliver in that respect. So far, our expectations in the negotiations for an EU-China Bilateral Investment Treaty have not been fully met due to a lack of progress and a mismatch of ambitions. The timely exchange of market access offers is a step forward towards bridging the gap”, said EUROCHAMBRES President **Christoph Leitl**.

Considering the comprehensive and strategic relationship between Europe and China, both sides must also seize the opportunity of this Summit to show they are willing and able to tackle the challenges at the WTO, in order to guarantee the long-term success of our rules-based multilateral trading system.

“For the EU and China to want to work together towards WTO reform is a needed and laudable first step. However, the tasks ahead are substantial and the list of topics to be addressed is long. SMEs, Digital trade, Dispute Settlement or State-Owned Enterprises (SoE’s) are all areas where global rules need to catch up and where we need both China and Europe to find common ground”, concluded President Leitl.

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