

Actualités

EU- China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment.

Ambitious opening and level playing field for European investments. In terms of market access for EU businesses, China has made significant commitments on manufacturing, the most important sector for EU investment in China. Manufacturing makes up more than half of total EU. This includes production of electric cars, chemicals, telecoms equipment and health equipment, among others. China is also making commitments for EU investments in various services sectors, such as cloud services, financial services, private healthcare, environmental services, international maritime transport and air transport-related services. In the sectors covered, European business will gain certainty and predictability for their operations as China will no longer be able to prohibit access or introduce new discriminatory practices. The CAI will help to level the playing field for EU investors by laying down very clear rules on Chinese state-owned enterprises, transparency of subsidies, and prohibiting forced technology transfers and other distortive practices. The agreement also includes guarantees that will make it easier for European companies to obtain authorisations and complete administrative procedures. It also secures access to China's standard setting bodies for European companies.

Embedding sustainability in our investment relationship. The CAI will bind the parties into a values-based investment relationship underpinned by sustainable development principles. This is the first time that China agrees to such ambitious provisions with a trade partner. China is undertaking commitments in the areas of labour and environment such as not to lower the standards of protection in order to attract investment, to respect its international obligations, as well as to promote responsible business conduct by its companies.

Enforcement. The implementation of the commitments in the Agreement will be monitored at the level of Executive Vice President on the side of the EU and Vice Premier on China's side. The State-to-State dispute resolution mechanism underpinning the agreement meets the highest standards found in existing EU trade agreements.

Continuation of negotiations on investment protection. The package deal reached includes a commitment by both sides to try to complete negotiations on investment protection and investment dispute settlement within 2 years of the signature of the CAI. The common objective is to work towards modernised protection standards and a dispute settlement that takes into account the work undertaken in the context of UNCITRAL on a Multilateral Investment Court. The EU's objective remains to modernise and replace the existing Member States' Bilateral Investment Treaties with China. [Q&A: EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment \(CAI\) \(europa.eu\)](#)

EU-UK trade relations: guidance on customs procedures for 2021. A freshly updated guidance note on customs formalities is now available for companies trading with the United Kingdom. When preparing your imports from or exports to the United Kingdom, consider obtaining an EORI number from an EU Member State; consult the competent customs authority for further advice on your individual situation; and adapt input and supply chains to take account of inputs to products coming from the UK. They will be non-originating for the purpose of claiming tariff preferences with third countries, check the UK's import conditions product-by-product https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/notice_to_stakeholders_brexit_customs_procedures-rev4_en.pdf

UK will keep access to EU research programme. The accord, if turned into law, will establish tariff and quota free trade between the two sides in goods, and cooperation in areas including science, climate change, nuclear and fusion research, security and transport. The announcement clears the way for the UK to take part in the EU's 2021 –

2027 €95.5 billion research programme, Horizon Europe, though the terms remain to be negotiated. The UK will continue to have a role in four other EU programmes, namely the Euratom nuclear research programme, the ITER project to build the world's first functioning nuclear fusion system, the earth monitoring project Copernicus, and EU satellite surveillance and tracking services. In the absence of defence cooperation, the UK will not have access to Galileo encrypted military data. But the UK will be outside a host of other EU programmes, including the massive regional development and agriculture schemes. The country will also be excluded from "sensitive, high-security projects or contracts". [eu-uk trade and cooperation agreement-a new relationship with big changes-overview of consequences and benefits.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

Recommended actions for the future of the EU Customs Union. These include: Harmonising national IT systems, or moving to one EU IT system in the mid to long-term, in order to enable customs operations to function efficiently; Making the most effective use of customs data and leveraging technological advancements; Ensuring the right digital skills for the future of customs across all EU Member States; Driving reforms at the international level through a strong, united European position. Creating a joint governance structure to manage the Customs Union. The findings of the foresight process fed into the Commission's [Customs Action Plan](#), which puts forward a vision and a plan of ambitious actions to take the Customs Union to the next level. These actions, to be achieved in the period up to 2025. [2020 Strategic Foresight Report | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

Watch List: Commission puts counterfeit and piracy hotspots in the spotlight. The Watch List aims to encourage the operators of these marketplaces and of the intermediaries providing services to them, as well as local enforcement authorities and governments to take action to stop or prevent intellectual property infringements. It also aims to raise awareness among EU citizens on the environmental, product safety and other risks of purchasing from these potentially problematic markets. The European Union Intellectual Property Office, the European Anti-Fraud Office and Europol have also contributed to the preparation of the Watch List. The Watch List has four focus areas: websites providing copyright-protected content, e-commerce platforms, online pharmacies and physical marketplaces. According to the European Union Intellectual Property Office and the OECD, trade in counterfeit and pirated products amounts annually to around €460 billion worldwide. The European Union is particularly affected, with counterfeit and pirated products amounting up to around 6,8% of all imports or as much as €121 billion a year. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2020/december/tradoc_159183.pdf

Political agreement for a new instrument to finance the EU external action. With an overall allocation of €79.5 billion in current prices, the new instrument will cover the EU cooperation with all third countries. The total allocation will be divided as follows: €60.38 billion for geographic programmes (at least €19.32 billion for the Neighbourhood, at least €29.18 billion for Sub-Saharan Africa, €8.48 billion for Asia and the Pacific, and Americas and the Caribbean, €3.39 billion); €6.36 billion for thematic programmes (Human Rights and Democracy, Civil Society Organisations, Peace, Stability and Peace Conflict Prevention and Global Challenges); €3.18 billion for rapid response actions. A "cushion" of unallocated funds of €9.53 billion could top-up any of the above-mentioned programmes and rapid response mechanism, to address unforeseen circumstances, new needs or emerging challenges and promote new priorities. Once adopted in early 2021, the NDICI will be implemented through the approval in 2021 of multi-annual indicative programmes for the 2021-2027 period for each region, partner country and thematic programme, to be prepared by the services of the Commission and the European External Action Service.

Plastic waste shipments: new EU rules on importing and exporting plastic waste. The new rules will enter into force on 1 January 2021. They apply to exports, imports and intra-EU shipments of plastic waste:

Exports from the EU : Exporting hazardous plastic waste and plastic waste that is hard to recycle from the EU to non-OECD countries will be banned. Exporting clean, non-hazardous waste (which is destined for recycling) from the EU to non-OECD countries will only be authorised under specific conditions. The importing country must indicate which rules apply to such imports to the European Commission. The export from the EU will then only be allowed under the conditions laid down by the importing country. For countries which do not provide information on their legal regime, the "prior notification and consent procedure" will apply. Exporting hazardous plastic waste and plastic waste that is hard to recycle from the EU to OECD countries will be subject to the "prior notification and consent procedure". Under this procedure, both the importing and exporting country must authorise the shipment.

Imports into the EU : Importing hazardous plastic waste and plastic waste that is hard to recycle into the EU from third countries will be subject to the “prior notification and consent procedure”. Under this procedure, both the importing and exporting country must authorise the shipment.

Intra-EU shipments : The “prior notification and consent procedure” will also apply to intra-EU shipments of hazardous plastic waste, and of non-hazardous plastic waste that is difficult to recycle. All intra-EU shipments of non-hazardous waste for recovery will be exempt from these new controls. [L_2020433FR.01001101.xml \(europa.eu\)](#)

SME vouchers: €20 million grant fund to help SMEs maximise their intellectual property assets. Small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) can apply for financing under a €20 million grant scheme to help EU companies to make better use of intellectual property rights. With the support of the Commission and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), the Ideas Powered for Business SME Fund aims to help firms develop their intellectual property (IP) strategies and protect their IP rights, at national and EU level. Open to all enterprises in the EU that fit the official definition of a SME, the new scheme offers financial support in form of reimbursements for IP scan services (IP pre-diagnostic) and trademark and design application, up to a maximum amount of €1,500 per business. The fund opens the first of the five application windows that will run throughout 2021. The requirements, timing and other information relevant to the scheme can be found: [EUIPO - SME Fund - EUTM \(europa.eu\)](#)

Opportunités

Innovation Fund Small Scale Projects (InnovFund-SSC-2020). The present call targets projects on low-carbon technologies and processes in all sectors covered by Directive 2003/87/EC (the EU ETS Directive): Innovation in low-carbon technologies and processes in sectors listed in Annex I, including environmentally safe carbon capture and utilisation (‘CCU’) that contributes substantially to mitigating climate change, as well as products substituting carbon intensive ones produced in sectors listed in Annex I, environmentally safe capture and geological storage (‘CCS’) of CO₂, and innovative renewable energy and energy storage technologies. Deadline date: 10 March 2021. [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](#)

Creating Links for the Facilitation of Public Procurement of Innovation. The Facilitator would broker a small number of public procurements of innovative products or services and demonstrate the effectiveness of this model of cooperation. The output of the projects should allow further analysis of experience and future optimisation of the process and better inclusion of SMEs and start-ups. The results would also be useful for further development of the business model of operation for such Facilitators. The Facilitator will not be procuring the actual goods or services. Deadline date: 25 February 2021. [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](#)

BlueInvest Grants: Investing in Blue Innovation. The grants offered to SMEs in this blue economy window call for proposals shall help advance market-readiness of new products, services or processes. Activities could, for example, include trials, prototyping, validation, demonstration and testing in real environment conditions, and market replication. A sustainable blue economy can also contribute significantly to European Green Deal objectives, including the biodiversity, circular economy, digital earth and farm to fork strategies and the transition to a climate-neutral economy. It can help communities and industries hit hard by the coronavirus or migration of key workers to recover through a more resilient economy with reduced carbon and environmental footprint and competitiveness on a global scale. Deadline date: 16 February 2021. [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](#)

Strategic alliances for the uptake of advanced technologies by SMEs. The action shall urge industry, governments, business, academia and citizens to build strategic alliances to seize the potential of advanced technologies. It shall offer evidence-based tools, support, advice and best practices. It shall support SMEs to achieve tangible progress in industrial modernisation, boosting their business growth and creating high-value jobs. The action shall accelerate innovation, industrial modernisation, innovative business models and upskilling of the workforce among European SMEs. It shall also contribute to the design and efficient implementation of smarter industrial policies and a modern Single Market in the 21st century. Deadline date: 02 February 2021. [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](#)

Call for Expression of Interest. External experts to support the implementation of structural reforms in Member States. Deadline date : 14 November 2021. [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](#)

HORIZON EUROPE. Le nouveau programme de recherche et d'innovation de l'UE disposera, sur la période 2021-2027, d'un budget d'environ 95,5 milliards d'euro. Il s'agit d'une augmentation de 30 % par rapport à l'actuel programme de recherche et d'innovation, Horizon 2020. **Pour rappel, le NCP Wallonie est mandaté par le GW accompagner pour tout support au montage de projet de recherche européen (Horizon 2020- Horizon Europe):** Food, Biotechnology, Climate ; Health, e-health; Transport, Space, Industry 4.0; SME, Access to finance; ICT, Security; Energy, Advanced Materials, Legal & Financial aspects. <https://www.ncpwallonie.be/fr/equipe>

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Scale-Up Financing and IPOs: Evidence From Three Surveys, EIF Working Paper n. 69. In light of recent EU policy initiatives such as the Capital Markets Union (CMU) action plan, this working paper provides unique insights from Venture Capital (VC) general partners/management companies, Private Equity Mid-Market (PE MM) managers and Business Angels (BA). Specifically, based on the first 2020 waves of the EIF VC, PE MM and BA Surveys, the report focuses on generating insights around three main topics of SME financing: Scale-up financing, Exit environment & Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) and policy-related implications of the above. The study attempts to piece together evidence from the three surveys, provides market insights from respondents in light of recent policy initiatives, and serves as an informative instrument to policy-makers and practitioners.

2020 EU Industrial Research and Development Scoreboard. The main objective of the EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard (the Scoreboard) is to benchmark the performance of EU innovation-driven industries against main global counterparts. The 2020 edition of the Scoreboard analyses the 2500 companies investing the largest sums in R&D in the world in 2019. A main difference in the presentation of data in this Scoreboard edition regards the new composition of the EU following the departure of the UK on 31 January 2020. Henceforth, in this report, the EU is understood as EU27 (i.e. without the UK). The 2020 Scoreboard total R&D is equivalent to approximately 90% of the world's business-funded R&D. The sample includes 421 companies based in the EU, accounting for 20.9% of the total R&D in the sample, 775 US companies (38.5%), 309 Japanese companies (12.7%), 536 Chinese (13.1%) and 459 from the rest of the world (14.8%). This is the tenth consecutive year of R&D increases driven by R&D investments in ICT, Health and Automotive industries. Companies based in the EU increased significantly R&D (5.6%) but well below the US (10.8%) and Chinese companies (21%) rates. [The 2020 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard | IRI \(europa.eu\)](#)

Evénements

R&I in recovery: What can Horizon Europe deliver? 22 - 23 February 2021. R&D and innovation have in many ways defined the world's response to COVID-19. The question now is whether they will have an equally important role to play in the recovery phase, and the green and digital transformations which lie beyond. As the EU prepares to launch Horizon Europe, its next R&I framework programme, Science|Business will bring together leaders from the worlds of industry, policy, science and society to discuss what Horizon can realistically deliver in the next decade, and the strategic value of R&I in a world seeking to "build back better" from the pandemic. [R&I in recovery: What can Horizon Europe deliver? | Science|Business](#)

The Internet of Food and Farm 2020, 16 – 18 March 2021. One of the most important aspects of IoF2020 is its innovation ecosystem of agri-tech stakeholders in Europe and beyond. Aside from numerous networking possibilities, the event will address three main aspects, which are relevant for project and the agricultural sector alike: state of the art technology, lessons learned during the project's research, self-sustaining ecosystems of research and innovation. [Events related to the Internet of Food and Farm - IoF2020 Final Event - IoF2020](#)

« Je suis un de ces démocrates qui croient que le but de la démocratie est de faire accéder chaque homme à la noblesse ».

Romain Gary.