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China Center NEWSLETTER N°24

Articles, news and events on China.

The China Center is an interdepartmental and multidisciplinary Research Centre of the University of Macerata, founded in 2013 within the initiatives of the Department of Law.



"2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the China Centre, which we are very proud of.
10 years of research projects, cooperation initiatives, training and public engagement across Europe and China.

We have grown thanks to the passion and dedication of many colleagues, entrepreneurs and experts.

We are happy to launch this newsletter as well as a rich calendar of activities for our community."

- Francesca Spigarelli, Director China Center

Scientific Articles

Towards a new model of EU-China innovation cooperation: Bridging missing links between internationaluniversity collaboration and international industry collaboration

This paper presents a theoretical framework and conducts empirical research to explore the significance of international collaboration among universities in the creation of transnational university-industry coinnovation networks (TUICNs) in the EU-China context. It also proposes a novel model for international innovation cooperation. The theoretical foundation of this study is established by integrating insights from both social network theory and institutional theory. The empirical investigation is based on the analysis of interviews conducted with 18 individuals actively involved in EU-China innovation collaborations. The study's findings indicate that international university collaboration can play a pivotal role in fostering international industry partnerships, thereby contributing to the development of TUICNs. This is achieved through several key mechanisms, including: 1) facilitating the identification of suitable industrial partners, 2) cultivating trust among these partners, 3) providing industrial actors with access to new resources, 4) enhancing the reputations of international companies in their respective collaborative countries, and 5) fostering the creation of innovative models for business collaboration. Additionally, this research addresses a noteworthy paradox within the field of innovation studies. Despite the extensive examination of universities' importance in national and regional innovation systems, as well as the recognition of global interconnectedness in innovation networks, limited attention has been directed towards universities' involvement in transnational innovation ecosystems. In light of the findings, the paper offers recommendations for policymakers, universities, and companies, considering the evolving landscape of challenges and opportunities presented by China to the EU.

Supply Chain Decoupling: Geopolitical Debates and Economic Dynamism in East Asia

Written by Mitsuyo Ando, Kazunobu Hayakawa, Fukunari Kimura, published online on 09/08/2023

The US-China confrontation's impact on supply chain separation has created significant uncertainties for private enterprises. This study centers on the international production networks within the machinery sector in East Asia and aims to uncover quantitative evidence regarding supply chain decoupling, especially from the perspective of middle-power countries like Japan. While data pertaining to trade at the sectoral level doesn't reveal explicit signs of supply chain decoupling, a closer examination at a more granular level highlights that certain US export controls can indeed affect international transactions. This paper employs econometric methods to gauge the impact of select US policies on Japanese exports to China. The recent strengthening of US export controls, particularly concerning supercomputers and advanced integrated circuits, is likely to have further repercussions. Nonetheless, it appears that supply chain decoupling will remain partial, and a significant portion of International Production Networks (IPNs) may continue to operate. In conclusion, the paper briefly discusses the policy implications stemming from this analysis.

News from China



2023 State of the Union Address by President von der Leyen

Posted by European Commission on 13/09/2023

On September 13, 2023, Ursula von der Leyen, the President of the European Commission, delivered her annual State of the Union (SOTEU) address. Every September, European Union (EU) legislators convene in Strasbourg, which serves as the official headquarters of the European Parliament, evaluate the European Commission's achievements and future plans in addressing the challenges and issues facing the EU. This marked the final SOTEU speech by the current Commission President, as her term, along with that of the entire College of Commissioners, concludes after the European Parliament elections scheduled for next June. The speech had two main parts. Firstly, von der Leyen reviewed her performance since 2019, highlighting her policies that helped the EU respond effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic and her efforts to support Ukraine in its conflict with Russia. She also mentioned the EU's achievement in passing the Green Deal, a comprehensive set of climate legislation aimed at achieving the EU's goal of net zero CO2 emissions by 2050. Secondly, von der Leyen outlined her agenda for the remaining year of her term. This agenda focused on improving the EU's economic performance and global competitiveness by reducing bureaucracy, enhancing the bloc's economic skills, and establishing new trade agreements with countries like Mexico, Australia, and the South American Mercosur nations. Notably, she announced an EU Commission investigation into unfair competition from China in the growing

electric vehicle (EV) market, emphasizing Europe's commitment to maintaining its competitive edge.

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Challenges and Solutions for European Businesses in China: Insights From the EU Chamber's Position Paper 2023/2024

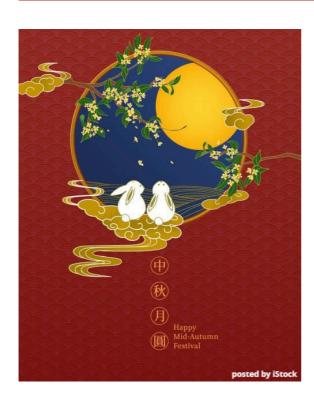
Written by Arendse Huld, posted by China Briefing on 21/09/2023

The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (EU Chamber) has released its European Business in China Position Paper 2023/2024, which reflects the views of its extensive network of over 1,700 member companies. The paper presents 1,058 recommendations aimed at enhancing the business environment for European firms operating in China. While acknowledging China's historical reputation as a "predictable, reliable, and efficient" market, the Position Paper underscores how this perception has diminished among European companies in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic due to various systemic, economic, and regulatory challenges. Despite these evolving perceptions, the paper highlights that European firms maintain significant investments in the Chinese market and express a commitment to China's success. It importance emphasizes the of active engagement with China and strengthening EU-China cooperation in areas of mutual interest, such as addressing climate change, promoting sustainable development, and reforming the World Trade Organization (WTO). The article



discusses some of the key challenges outlined in the Position Paper that European companies face in China and provides essential recommendations to make China more attractive to European investors.

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Festive China: Mid-Autumn Festival

Written and posted by China Daily on 28/09/2023

The Mid-Autumn Festival, which falls on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month, is a traditional Chinese celebration centered around the moon. Throughout history, it has been a custom for Chinese families to come together, enjoy sweet mooncakes, and appreciate the enchanting beauty of the moon. The Chinese fascination with the moon is deeply rooted in a captivating legend known as "Chang'e Flies to the Moon". What does this story entail, and how does it connect to China's "Chang'e Moon Exploration Project"? Furthermore, what mysteries lie on the dark side of the moon? For answers to these questions, watch this episode of Festive China.

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