

EU starts on tricky path towards relaxing China trade defence



第五次中欧经贸高层对话
THE FIFTH CHINA-EU HIGH LEVEL ECONOMIC AND TRADE DIALOGUE

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The fifth China-EU high level economic and trade dialogue is going on in China.

REUTERS, Brussels
The European Union will take the first step on Wednesday towards refashioning its trade ties with Beijing, torn over how to lower its defences to avert Chinese retaliation while protecting key industries against a damaging flood of cheap imports.

Commissioners from the bloc's 28 members will debate for the first time the politically sensitive issue of granting China "market economy status" from December, which Beijing says is its right 15 years after it joined the World Trade Organisation.

The coveted status would make it much harder for Europe to impose anti-dumping duties on Chinese goods sold at knock-down prices, changing the criteria for determining a fair price.

A study by a group of 25

European manufacturing federations estimates the European Union could lose up to 3.5 million jobs if it removes its trade defences against China.

The bloc's final decision, taken together with EU governments and the European Parliament, will set it on a collision course either with Beijing or with its own manufacturers and with Washington, which sees no obligation to treat China's heavily state-shaped economy as a market economy.

"My opinion is that China is not a market economy. But it is a major trade player and we have to take that into account," said one senior EU official.

The Commission must take the initiative and all signs point to it accepting China as a market economy while seeking to keep trade defence measures for a transition period, which could appeal to se-

ctors such as steel, chemicals or textile makers.

This could take the form of maintaining existing duties until their natural expiry - typically five years - and potentially raising duties imposed for illegal subsidies.

Chinese officials have said they could show flexibility in allowing a transition period for particular European industries. A 2013 deal to end an EU investigation into Chinese dumping of solar panels showed Beijing and Brussels can find agreement.

The Commission's legal experts have advised it to grant China market economy status. A report prepared with two outside economists is expected to conclude this can be done, together with certain extra measures, without harming the EU economy.

The Commission has indicated no final decision should be expected before the summer, but an

exchange of views with EU governments could come as early as Feb. 2 when EU trade ministers meet in Amsterdam.

They seem divided, with free-traders like Britain, Nordic countries and the Netherlands likely to be in favour but with nations such as Italy, which compete with Chinese goods, and France being against granting market economy status.

Germany's position could sway the decision, which diplomats say is likely to need the support of all governments and not just a qualified majority. It is the EU's biggest exporter to China, but there is friction as China seeks to produce the kind of sophisticated products that compete directly with Germany.

Free trade advocates say Europeans gain from cheaper Chinese imports and that companies such as Alstom or Siemens will gain easier access to China's vast market in return. Rebuffing Beijing also risks retaliation.

The EU is China's largest trading partner, while China ranks second after the United States for the EU and was the source of some 302 billion euros (\$330 billion) of imports in 2014, more than triple their level at the start of the century.

Market economy status is important because it determines the way in which dumping - selling at unfairly low prices - is assessed. With market economies, the test of dumping is to see if the export price of a product is below the domestic price.

In China's case, as a non-market economy, domestic prices are not considered a suitable benchmark. So its exports prices are compared with domestic prices of another country - in a recent stainless steel case, the United States was chosen.

GM bets Americans will buy cars made in China

AFP, Chicago

General Motors will be placing a big bet the American public is willing to drive a car built in China when it unveils the Buick Envision on Sunday night.

The largest US automaker is certainly not trying to bring it to market quietly: Buick's latest sport utility vehicle will be introduced at a lavish party on the eve of the Detroit auto show in the hopes of maximizing media coverage.

"We expect it to be a great success," Molly Peck, US marketing director for Buick, told AFP.

"It offers all the features and amenities of a luxury SUV. It's high quality, quiet, filled with advance safety technology. The design is gorgeous. The interior execution is outstanding. And it's all at a price point that offers a great value."

GM's decision to import the Envision from China -- a first for a major automaker -- has sparked outrage and is expected to become an issue in the 2016 presidential campaign.

The United Auto Workers union, which

has lobbied to build the Envision in the United States, called the decision to import it from China a "slap in the face" to taxpayers who bailed GM out of bankruptcy in the wake of the financial 2008 crisis.

Republican frontrunner Donald Trump has not yet seized on the issue, but given that he regularly rails against China for stealing American jobs analysts say it's only a matter of time.

"I suspect GM is counting on the product to trump the actual Trump," said Harley Shaiken, a professor at the University of California who specializes in labor issues and the automotive industry.

General Motors will come a long way since it first tried importing vehicles from a developing nation -- Mexico -- decades ago and it has systems in place to ensure that the Chinese-built Envision matches both American and global standards, Shaiken said.

"GM is well aware of how a poor reputation in these early vehicles could have much larger impacts down the road," he told AFP. "This is a major event that opens a new era."



Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre, and Muhammad A (Rume) Ali, chief executive officer, pose with participants of a discussion on managing HR disputes organised by BIAC at its office on Thursday.



AFP

Indian exporter Ayubhai Chhipa, right, looks on as a worker packs a parcel of hand block printed 'Abu Satara Shawls' at a workshop in Ahmedabad. The shawls which are made for women of Yemen to wear in winter take some 60 days to make with some 11 stages of hand block printing with herbal colour. The ongoing conflict in the restive Middle Eastern country has affected orders in recent years. However, some 16,000 shawls are produced in the western Indian state of Gujarat each year for export. The work is mostly undertaken by women in their homes with an average monthly wage of Indian rupees 3,000.

Italy bottle cap tycoon leaves workers 1.5m euros in will

AFP, Rome

Workers at an Italian factory were delighted by an unexpected Christmas bonus, receiving cheques for thousands of euros bequeathed to them by their late boss who died in June, reports said Saturday.

Piero Macchi, the founder of Enoplastic, which produces screwcaps, synthetic corks and labels for drinks bottles, quietly changed his will shortly before he died, leaving staff at the

company's Bodio Lomnago plant in the Italian Alps a total of 1.5 million euros (\$1.64 million).

"It was all managed by his wife Carla, my mother, who sent a touching letter of thanks with each of the cheques," Macchi's daughter Giovanna, the current joint manager of Enoplastic, told Corriera della Sera newspaper.

The cheques landed just before Christmas, with new staff receiving 2,000 euros and the oldest staff 10,000

-- and some workers got even more when Macchi knew they needed it.

Macchi, a lover of both good wine and machinery, turned a hobby into a lucrative business when he founded Enoplastic in 1957 -- the company now produces 2.5 billion units a year and exports to more than 80 countries.

"We always think of ourselves as a big family and this Christmas present is a sign of that," one worker told the Varese News newspaper.

Asda feels pressure and fuels price war

BBC NEWS

Supermarket chain Asda has predicted another year of "intense pressure" for the struggling sector as the global economy remains "turbulent".

Asda boss Andy Clarke said he would sink another £500m into the price war with his rivals, as part of "radical action to win back our customers".

The move comes at the start of a big week for the grocery trade.

The other big UK supermarkets - Tesco, Sainsbury's and Morrisons - are set to unveil Christmas trading figures.

Asda, which is owned by US chain Walmart, does not release its figures until February.

However, Asda appears to have been suffering more than its rivals, with analysts viewing it as the most vulnerable of the big four to discount stores Aldi and Lidl.

Asda's latest price-cutting investment is in addition to £1bn of investment announced in 2013 and due to be rolled out over a five-year period.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FACILITATION COMPANY

(An enterprise of ERD, Ministry of Finance)
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Managing Director

Infrastructure Investment Facilitation Company (IIFC) is a well-known consulting company in Bangladesh under Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance which provides Technical Assistance Services (TAS) in various fields including public and private procurement and PPP transaction, research, survey, financial and economic analysis and impact assessment, training & capacity building, policy & advocacy. IIFC works internationally in PPP transaction, financial and economic analysis, institutional reforms and capacity building across two continents - Asia, Africa. IIFC was incorporated in 1999 as a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act 1994.

IIFC wishes to appoint its Managing Director. The Managing Director is the Chief Executive Officer of the Company and reports to the Board of Directors. The Managing Director will lead the team of executives of the Company and will be responsible for the overall and day-to-day management of the Company and for the fulfillment of the objects of the Company.

Qualifications and Experience: Applications are sought from individuals with post graduate degree in Finance, Economics, Business Administration, Engineering or related subjects with at least 15 years of experiences of working at top position in public/private sector with proven managerial skills and leadership qualities. The position will also require the incumbent to have reasonable knowledge of financial, commercial, economic, business and legal issues that will impinge on the performance of IIFC. Experience in handling consultancy work will be an added advantage. Applicants must have the qualities of high integrity, efficiency, excellent negotiation skills and age of the applicants must not exceed 63 years on the last day of submission of application.

Terms & Conditions and Remuneration: An attractive remuneration and benefits will be offered to the suitable qualified and experienced individuals to the position located in Dhaka, for an initial contract of 3 years which is renewable.

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INTERNATIONAL SHORT DATED TENDER NOTICE

EDCL invites **Two Envelope System** International Tender for Supply of Pharmaceutical Raw Materials on C&F© Dhaka by Air basis :-

S.L No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	IMP / RM / SEM / 29 / 2015-2016 dated 10/01/2016	Pharmaceutical Raw Materials: 01. Film Coating Material White (Wincoat WT-AQ-1001 Or equivalent) Ph. Gr 02. Film Coating Material Orange (Wincoat WT-MP-01064 Or equivalent) Ph. Gr 03. Simethicone Powder 50% (MS Antifoam) 04. Rifampicin BP 05. Pyridoxine HCl BP	Tk. 1,250.00/set Equivalent to US\$ 16.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 18/01/2016 at 03.00 PM Opening : 18/01/2016 at 03.15 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of **Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka** on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays).

No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft / Pay Order / Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Co. Ltd." without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

N.B: This Information is also available at our Website : www.edcl.gov.bd

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