

**EU-China Relations: Main Events  
(This list is not exhaustive)**

1975	6 May	<b>Diplomatic relations established. Christopher Soames first European Commissioner to visit China</b>
1979	February	Commission President Roy Jenkins visits China. First visit of a Commission President, meets Deng Xiaoping
1980	16-19 June	First inter-parliamentary meeting between delegations of the EP and of the National People's Congress, Strasbourg, France
1984		First political consultations at ministerial level, in the context of European Political Cooperation
1985	21-23 May	<b>Agreement on trade and economic cooperation signed</b>
1988	4 October	<b>Opening of the Beijing Delegation of the European Commission office</b>
1989	June	As a reaction to Tiananmen incidents of 4 June, EC freezes relations with China and imposes a number of sanctions, including an arms embargo
1992		EC-China relations largely back to normal; arms embargo remains in place
	June	<b>Establishment of a new bilateral political dialogue</b>
1993	October	Opening of the Hong Kong European Commission office
1995	15 July	<b>European Commission publishes first Communication "A long-term policy for China-Europe relations"</b>
		<b>Launch of a specific dialogue on human rights issues</b>
1996	1-2 March	First Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)
1998	25 March	European Commission publishes Communication "Building a Comprehensive Partnership with China"
	2 April	<b>1<sup>st</sup> EU-China Summit, London, UK</b>
1999	21 December	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> EU-China Summit, Beijing, China</b>
	11 July	Visit of Prime Minister Zhu Rongji to Brussels, Belgium (first visit of a Chinese Premier to the Commission)
	24 October	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> EU-China Summit, Beijing, China</b>
2001	15 May	European Commission publishes Communication "EU Strategy towards China: Implementation of the 1998 Communication and Future Steps for a more Effective EU Policy"
	5 September	<b>4<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit, Brussels, Belgium</b>
	11 December	<b>China becomes the 143<sup>rd</sup> Member of the World Trade Organisation (Bilateral agreement on China's WTO accession signed in Beijing on 19 May 2015)</b>
2002	June	Exchange of letters strengthening the EU-China political dialogue
	24 September	<b>5<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit, Copenhagen, Denmark</b>
2003	10 March	<b>EC opens Taiwan European Economic and Trade Office</b>
	3 June	China formally requests market economy status under EU's anti-dumping instrument
	13 October	EU Council of Ministers endorses European Commission adopts policy paper "A maturing partnership: shared interests and challenges in EU-China relations"
	13 October	<b>China releases first ever policy paper on EU</b>
	30 October	<b>6<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit, Beijing, China:</b> Agreements signed on - Cooperation in the Galileo satellite navigation programme - Industrial Policy Dialogue - EU-China Dialogue on Intellectual Property
2004	16 April	<b>Commission President Romano Prodi visits China</b>
	6 May	Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao visits Commission Headquarters, new dialogue initiatives signed; customs cooperation agreement initialed; political leaders recommend that the "Guidelines for Common Action" are implemented
	8 December	<b>7<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit, The Hague, The Netherlands:</b> the EU and China signed - Joint declaration on Non-proliferations and Arms Control - EU-China Customs Cooperation Agreement - Agreement on R&D cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy

2005	14-18 July	<b>Commission President Barroso visits China</b>
	5 September	<b>8<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit, Beijing, China:</b> the EU and China signed: - MoU on labour, employment and social affairs - Joint Statement on cooperation in space exploitation, science & technology development - Joint declaration on climate change
	20 December	1 <sup>st</sup> EU-China Strategic Dialogue, London, UK
2006	30 March	The first EU-China bilateral consultations under the Climate Change Partnership are held, Vienna, Austria
	6 June	2 <sup>nd</sup> EU-China Strategic Dialogue, Beijing, China
	9 September	<b>9<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit, Helsinki, Finland:</b> the EU and China agree on opening negotiations for a new comprehensive framework agreement
	24 October	Commission adopts Communication "EU-China: Closer Partners, growing responsibilities" and a policy paper on trade and investment
2007	22 June	1st Meeting of the EU-China Civil Society Round Table, Beijing, China
	25 October	3 <sup>rd</sup> EU-China Strategic Dialogue, Lisbon, Portugal
	28 November	<b>10<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit, Beijing, China:</b> the EU and China established High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue agreed to enhance cooperation on climate change
2008	24-25 April	President Barroso and nine Commissioners meet with their counterparts in Beijing, China
	25 April	1 <sup>st</sup> EU-China High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue, Beijing, China
	11 June	Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi visits Brussels, Belgium
2009	19 January	4 <sup>th</sup> EU-China Strategic Dialogue, Beijing, China
	30 January	Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao visits Brussels, Belgium
	7-8 May	2 <sup>nd</sup> EU-China High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue, Brussels, Belgium
	20 May	<b>11<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit, Prague, Czech Republic:</b> the EU and China - addressed the issues of the financial crisis and climate change.
	30 November	<b>12<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit, Nanjing, China:</b> the EU and China - agreed to speed up the negotiations on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement - agreed to strengthen people-to-people exchanges and cultural cooperation
	17 December	5 <sup>th</sup> EU-China Strategic Dialogue, Stockholm, Sweden
2010	28 January	EU HR/VP Ashton meeting with FM Yang Jiechi in margins of London Conference on Afghanistan
	12 April	Meeting between President Van Rompuy and President Hu (Washington, on the margins of the Nuclear Security Summit)
	26 April-2 May	President Barroso, EU HR/VP Ashton and other commissioners visit Beijing and Shanghai
	29 August- 4 September	EU HR/VP Ashton's visit to China (Foreign Ministerial meeting) 1 <sup>st</sup> EU-China High Level Strategic Dialogue
	6 October	<b>13<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit, Brussels, Belgium:</b> the EU and China addressed issues related to global governance (sustainable growth in a post crisis-world economy), trade and investment and how to strengthen our political dialogue
	21 December	3 <sup>rd</sup> High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue, Beijing
2011	12 May	2 <sup>nd</sup> EU-China High Level Strategic Dialogue, Gödöllő, Hungary
	15-18 May 2011	President Van Rompuy visits China
	7 June	EU HR/VP Ashton met Foreign Minister Yang in the margins of the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Gödöllő, Hungary
	21 September	EU HR/VP Ashton met Foreign Minister Yang at the margins of the UN General Assembly, New York, USA
	24-25 October	EU HR/VP Ashton's visit to China

2012	17 January	EU HR/VP Ashton met State Counselor Dai Bingguo, New Delhi
	14 February	<b>14<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit, Beijing, China:</b> the EU and China discussed bilateral issues including Strategic partnership, trade, climate change. They announced new initiatives: partnership on sustainable urbanisation; high-level people-to- people dialogue; reinforced cooperation on energy.
	18 April	Launching of the EU-China High Level People-to-People Dialogue by Ms A. Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth and Ms Liu Yandong, State Councilor of the People's Republic of China, Brussels, Belgium
	3 May	Visit of Vice-Prime Minister Li Keqiang to Brussels. First EU-China High Level Meeting on Energy Launching of the EU-China Partnership for Urbanisation
	30 May	EU HR/VP Ashton met Wang Jiarui, Minister of the International Department of CPC Central Committee, Beijing, China.
	9-10 July	3 <sup>rd</sup> EU-China High Level Strategic Dialogue, Beijing, China
	19-20 September	1 <sup>st</sup> EU-China Mayors Forum, Brussels, Belgium
	20 September	<b>15<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit, Brussels, Belgium.</b> Leaders discussed economic and financial issues, trade relations including enhanced market access, public procurement and export credits, further cooperation within the EU-China Strategic Partnership and international issues (Syria, Iran, East Asia). It was the 10 <sup>th</sup> and last EU-China Summit attended by Prime Minister Wen Jiabao
2013	25-28 April	EU HR/VP Ashton visit to China. Bilateral meetings with Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Yu Zhengsheng, State Councillor Yang Jiechi, Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi, and State Councillor and Defence Minister General Chang Wanquan.
	9-18 September	First of visit EUSR for Human Rights to China, including Qinghai and Tibet
	24 October	4 <sup>th</sup> High-Level Economic and Trade Dialogue, Brussels.
	21 November	<b>16<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit, Beijing, China;</b> including dinner in honour of Presidents Van Rompuy and Barosso, hosted by President Xi. Adoption of the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation which covers the following issues: peace and security, prosperity, sustainable development and people-to-people exchanges. The following sides events took place: Urbanisation Forum (21/11), sub-fora and exhibition, High Level Dialogue on Cooperation and Innovation.
	22-23 November	President Barroso visit to Hong Kong and Macao. 20th anniversary of EU-Macao Trade and Cooperation Agreement
2014	23-25 January	Visit to China of the EUSR for Central Asia
	27 January	The 4 <sup>th</sup> EU-China High-level Strategic Dialogue, Brussels, Belgium
	6 March	1 <sup>st</sup> Dialogue on International Development, Brussels, Belgium

	31 March	1 <sup>st</sup> ever visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Brussels. Meeting with Presidents, Van Rompuy, Barroso and
	2 April	Release of Chinese White Paper on EU-China relations
	5-6 September	2 <sup>nd</sup> round of EU-China High Level People to People Dialogue, Beijing, China
	11 October	Meeting between EP President Schulz and Prime Minister Li Keqiang, Hamburg, Germany
2015	15-17 March	EP President Schulz visits China
	5 May	5 <sup>th</sup> EU-China High-Level Strategic Dialogue, Beijing, China
	6 May	Celebration of 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of EU-China Relations
	29 June	<b>17th EU-China Summit, Brussels, Belgium:</b> - Establishment of the Connectivity Platform - Agreed to enhance cooperation to address key environmental challenges - Committed to cooperate in the field of energy - Agreed to establish EU – China Legal Affairs Dialogue - Further develop cooperation on defence and security
	15 September	3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of the High Level People to People Dialogue, EU-China Higher Education Platform for Cooperation and Exchanges, Brussels, Belgium
	28 September	5 <sup>th</sup> High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue, Beijing, China
	9-13 November	EUSR for Human Rights visit to Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Hong Kong
2016	20-22 January	1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on the EU-China Connectivity Platform
	6 April	1 <sup>st</sup> EU-China Agenda 2020 Implementation Review, Beijing, China
	10 June	6 <sup>th</sup> EU-China High-Level Strategic Dialogue, Brussels, Belgium
	21-22 June	1 <sup>st</sup> Legal Affairs Dialogue in Beijing, China
	22 June	<b>The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission adopt the Joint Communication on Elements for a EU Strategy on China</b>
	12-13 July	<b>18<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit, Beijing, China</b>