

In view of the Commission's transparency policy, the Commission is publishing the text of the EU-China Investment Agreement following the agreement in principle announced on 30 December 2020.

The text is published for information purposes only and may undergo further modifications as a result of the process of legal and technical revision, including of the final structure (such as numbering, sequencing, or titles of articles, or any duplication). However, in view of the growing public interest in the negotiations, the text is published at this stage of the negotiations for information purposes. This text is without prejudice to the final outcome of the agreement between the EU and China.

The text will be final upon signature. The agreement will become binding on the Parties under international law only after completion by each Party of its internal legal procedures necessary for the entry into force of the Agreement.

Preamble

NOTING with satisfaction the continuous expansion of exchanges and cooperation between China and the EU since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1975, notably through the EU-China Trade and Cooperation Agreement of 1985, and the establishment of the China-EU Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2003;

CONFIRMING the importance of the EU-China High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue started in 2007 as the strategic forum for all matters relating to the bilateral trade and investment relationship;

COMMITTED to building their economic relationship based on openness, reciprocity and mutual benefit, ensuring non-discrimination, a level playing field, transparency, and a predictable and rule-based investment environment;

SEEKING to establish clear and mutually advantageous rules governing their investment and to reduce or eliminate the barriers to mutual investment;

RECOGNIZING the right of the Parties to adopt and enforce measures to achieve legitimate public policy objectives;

REAFFIRMING their commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, signed in San Francisco on 26 June 1945, and having regard to the principles articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1948;

DETERMINED to strengthen their economic, trade and investment relations in accordance with the objective of sustainable development, and to promote investment in a manner supporting high levels of environmental and labour rights' protection, including fighting against climate change and forced labour, taking into account the relevant international standards and agreements;

COMMITTED to encourage enterprises to respect corporate social responsibility or responsible business conduct;

RECOGNISING the importance of transparency in international investment to the benefit of all stakeholders;

BUILDING on their respective rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement and other multilateral, regional and bilateral agreements and arrangements to which they are party,