FTA calls for closer EU-China relations on trade and investment

On 19 April, FTA published a Position Paper on EU-China economic relations, where it calls for the two sides to conclude negotiations as soon as possible on an Investment Agreement, so that they may start talks on a free trade agreement in order to remove the barriers to trade that exist between the two.

The positions paper aims to bring a balanced view of EU-China trade relations and outline both the positive and the negative aspects and have a frank dialogue on them. This is highly needed especially at a time when the discourse is concentrated on the issue of China’s Market Economy Status at the WTO. To this end, the recently published study from the Centre for European Policy Studies, and commissioned by the FTA, will also contribute to the open discussion on the topic.

The position paper also illustrates China’s importance for European businesses as a sourcing market, as well as a number of problems that FTA members and other companies face in China. FTA calls on efforts to be made to facilitate retail and supply chain activity in China. The Chinese retail market is expected to be the world’s largest by 2018 and China is already the largest e-commerce market in the world; Yet, European retailers and brand companies operating on Chinese market continue to be affected by technical barriers and violations of intellectual property rights. FTA also calls on the need for reforms to be carried out in China regarding customs implementation, product safety, licencing procedures and real estate grants and intellectual property rights.

FTA Position Paper on EU-China Economic Relations can be found here.

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