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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(29.11.2024)

The Commission is aware of several initiatives and overseas investment plans regarding Chinese automotive producers. Information regarding these plans has been available in the news over the last few months.

At this stage, it is too early to assess whether these investments could have an impact on the competitiveness of the European car industry. It would be premature to speculate on possible measures.

However, the Commission will closely monitor the situation and will take appropriate steps if necessary to ensure the continued competitiveness of the industry and compliance with relevant rules and standards.

The Commission has a comprehensive set of trade defence instruments at its disposal to deal with situations of circumvention of duties. These anti-circumvention instruments are designed to ensure fair competition and the effectiveness of measures in place. If the conditions are found to be met, following an anti-circumvention investigation, measures against one country could be extended to (a) third country(s) to prevent circumvention of duties. The Commission remains vigilant and will closely monitor investments of Chinese car manufacturers in third countries. The Commission will take appropriate action where necessary to preserve the principles of fair trade, to maintain a level playing field and to protect the industry against unfair competition.