

EN

E-001739/2026

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.7.2026)

The Commission is aware of the recent engagements between Spain and China. Member States remain competent to pursue bilateral economic cooperation with third countries, in full respect of EU law, the EU's common policies and the EU Economic Security Strategy¹. The Commission recalls the European Council conclusions of 30 June 2023², which called for reducing critical dependencies and vulnerabilities and for pursuing de-risking, not decoupling, in relation to China. The Commission continues to work with Member States to strengthen the EU's economic resilience, preserve open and fair trade, and address risks linked to excessive strategic dependencies.

Since 2023, the EU has intensified diversification and resilience efforts through the EU Economic Security Strategy, strengthened trade defence and anti-coercion instruments, enforcement of the Foreign Subsidies Regulation³, and initiatives under the Critical Raw Materials Act⁴ and Net-Zero Industry Act⁵ to diversify supply chains and strengthen domestic capacities in strategic sectors. The EU is also advancing trade agreements and partnerships with reliable partners, including Mercosur, Mexico, Chile, New Zealand, India, Indonesia and partners in the Indo-Pacific and Africa, while expanding cooperation on raw materials, clean technologies, digital infrastructure and energy security.

The Commission will continue to monitor developments closely and work with Member States to ensure that engagement with China remains consistent with the EU's economic security objectives and long-term strategic interests.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023JC0020&utm>.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/06/30/european-council-conclusions-on-china-30-june-2023/>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022R2560&utm>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1252&utm>.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1735/oj/eng?utm>.