

# France-China: A global strategic partnership

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## Part 1: A large volume of high-level bilateral visits

**Since 2016: The French Embassy in China has been the 1st embassy in the French diplomatic network in terms of staff numbers: There are 6 Consulate Generals of France in China.**

- April 2013: French President makes state visit to China
- 27 January 2014: 50th anniversary of the establishment of Franco-Chinese diplomatic relations
- March 2014: Chinese President visits France. Adoption of an enhanced cooperation plan
- 2015: Reciprocal visits by French and Chinese Heads of State and Heads of Government
- May and October 2016: Visit by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development
- September 2016: Meeting between the French and Chinese Presidents in parallel with the G20 Summit
- February 2017: Visit by the French Prime Minister

## Part 2: Ever-closer economic ties

**Franco-Chinese bilateral trade was worth €68.6 billion in 2016**

### France

- 3<sup>rd</sup> European trading partner
- 1<sup>st</sup> European agricultural supplier
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chinese tourist destination outside Asia
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-biggest receiver of job-creating Chinese investments in Europe (on par with the UK)
- 1,600 French businesses are based in China, representing 570,000 jobs
- New areas of cooperation: sustainable cities, health, agri-food, finance

## **China**

- 1<sup>st</sup> trading partner in Asia for France
- 8<sup>th</sup> largest export market for France
- 2.2 million Chinese visitors to France in 2015
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-biggest supplier (computer, electronic, optical, textile and leather products)
- 700 Chinese and Hong Kong businesses are based in France, representing 45,000 jobs.

## **Part 3: Enhanced cooperation**

### **Rebalancing economic cooperation**

**Industrial partnerships in the nuclear, aviation and automotive industries are the keystones of our economic relationship.**

#### *Nuclear*

- 2010: Signature of a "Global Partnership" covering all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle
- 2015: Adoption of a joint statement on strengthening civil nuclear energy cooperation
- 2016: Realization of the Hinkley Point C nuclear plant project (7% of UK electricity when finished)
- 2017: Signature of an industrial and commercial cooperation framework agreement between Areva and CNNC
- Late 2017: Commissioning of the world's 1<sup>st</sup> EPR reactor in Taishan (China)

#### *Automotive*

- 2016: Inauguration of two Renault and PSA-Dongfeng plants in Wuhan

## Aviation

- 2017: Expected delivery of the 1st A330 from the A330 wide-bodied aircraft completion and delivery centre in Tianjin

## Scientific, cultural and educational cooperation

- Scientific and technological collaboration established in 1978
- 3,000 researchers from the two countries cooperate in 600 research units
- The “*Croisements*” festival has become the largest foreign festival in China (150 events, 30 cities, over 1 million spectators)
- 28,000 Chinese study in France, making China the leading country of origin for foreign students in France
- 10,000 French students in China, making France the 1<sup>st</sup> European country and 10<sup>th</sup> country of origin for foreign students in China
- 120,000 people study French in China, notably at the 15 *Alliance Française* establishments in China
- 50,000 French nationals study Chinese (excluding higher education), the 5<sup>th</sup> most taught language in France

## Environment and sustainable development cooperation

- 3 priorities: climate change, sustainable urban development and water-related issues
- The French Development Agency (AFD) has been working in China since 2004 to:
  - support the country's transition to a low-carbon, eco-friendly economy
  - promote the expertise and know-how of French stakeholders through partnerships
- In 2016, four projects were approved by AFD institutions, representing a total of €150 million