China Business Weekly

24 November 2026

法兰德斯 中国商会 FCCC VCKK
FLANDERS-CHINA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VLAAMS-CHINESE KAMER VAN KOOPHANDEL

FCCC/EUCBA ACTIVITIES

Webinar: European Business in China: Position Paper 2026-2027
25 November 2026, 10:00 CET



The **Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC)** and the **EU–China Business Association (EUCBA)** are organizing a webinar entitled "**European Business in China: Position Paper 2026/2027"**, taking place on **Wednesday, 25 November 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CET.**

The **European Business in China Position Paper 2026/2027**, published by the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, highlights the main challenges facing European companies operating in China and presents recommendations to the Chinese Government aimed at improving the country's business environment.

As China enters its 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026–2030), the country is focusing on achieving sustainable, high-quality economic growth and strengthening its position in the global economy.

At the same time, China's role is evolving for many multinational companies. Its appeal increasingly lies not only in the size of its market, but also in its world-leading supply chains and industrial clusters. As Chinese operations become more integrated into global production, companies are shifting from **'in China for China' to 'in China for the world'**.

Join us to hear about the key challenges faced both by businesses and China's economy more broadly, and the Chamber's recommendations on the steps that could be taken to overcome them.

The programme is as follows:

10h00 – 10h05: Welcome remarks by **Ms. Gwenn Sonck, Executive Director, Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC) and EU-China Business Association (EUCBA)**

10h05 – 10h40: Presentation on the **"EU Business in China: Position Paper 2026/2027"** by **Mr. Adam Dunnett**, Secretary General, **European Union Chamber of Commerce in China**

10h40 – 11h00: Q&A Session

10h55 – 11h00: Closing remarks by **Mr. Jochum Haakma, Chairman, EU-China Business Association (EUCBA)**

Practical Information

Date: 25 November 2026

Time: 10h00 CET

Location: Online

Participation fee: Free

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FCCC & Dentons Year-End Evening Reception – 10 December 2026, 6 P.M. – Brussels



The **Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC)** and **Dentons Brussels, as a structural partner of the FCCC**, are organizing an **exclusive Year-End Networking Reception**, taking place on **Thursday, 10 December 2026**, at **The Hotel in Brussels**.

Join us for an evening of networking and exchange with business leaders, professionals and members of the FCCC and Dentons communities, accompanied by a walking dinner.

The reception will provide an opportunity to strengthen existing connections, establish new business relationships and exchange perspectives on international business and cross-border opportunities.

Guests will also have the opportunity to meet partners from **Dentons**, a global full-service law firm advising businesses across a broad range of sectors and practice areas, including M&A, tax, employment, energy, trade, sanctions and white-collar defence.

The programme is as follows:
18:00 – 18:30 Registration and Welcome
18:35 – 18:40 Welcome Remarks by **Ms Gwenn Sonck, Executive Director, Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC)**
18:40 – 18:50 Speeches by Lawyers from Dentons
18:50 – 19:00 Experiences of **Orfit Industries** in China by **Mr Steven Cuypers, CEO, Orfit Industries**
19:00 – 19:10 Insights from **Xiaomi Technology** by **Mr Christophe Christiaens, Senior Public Affairs Manager, Automotive & Digital, Xiaomi Technology**

Practical information

Date: Thursday, 10 December 2026

Time: 18:00–21:00

Venue: The Hotel, Boulevard de Waterloo 38, Brussels

Price for members: free

Price for non-members: 65€ + 21% VAT

Deadline for subscription: 28 November 2026

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ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY FCCC

Flanders Investment & Trade Seminar: E-commerce in China
16 December 2026 – Brussels

From local player to a global customer base.

The world of e-commerce is evolving faster than ever. Are you ready to sell your products to millions of potential customers worldwide?

On December 16, Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT) and Alibaba will bring together entrepreneurs, e-commerce specialists, and international experts for an **inspiring event focused on digital export**.

During this event, you will discover how Flemish companies can **boost** their **international growth** through e-commerce and digital marketplaces. **Experts from Alibaba** will share the latest insights on online sales, market access, reaching customers, and successful growth strategies for international markets.

You will gain practical tips, hear inspiring business testimonials, and have the opportunity to connect directly with specialists and other export-oriented entrepreneurs.

Why participate?

Discover how to:

- reach **new international customers**;
- make optimal use of online **marketplaces**;
- position **your brand globally**;
- seize the opportunities offered by **cross-border e-commerce**.

Get inspired by **real-world examples**, **market insights**, and concrete **strategies** to accelerate your international growth.

Program

14:00–14:30 Participant registration

14:30–14:40 Opening & Welcome: by FIT and Alibaba.

14:40–15:10 China Today – Consumer & E-commerce Trends: the evolving Chinese consumer landscape, emerging trends, promising product categories, and opportunities for Flemish brands.

Speaker: Jennifer Wang, General Manager Europe, Tmall Global.

15:10–15:30 AI in Action – Opportunities for SMEs Alibaba Cloud: how artificial intelligence is transforming business and e-commerce.

Speaker: to be confirmed.

15:30–15:50 From Flanders to China: a moderated discussion on market entry, challenges, lessons learned, and practical advice.

Panelists: Ryely Newman, Senior Manager Digital Commerce and Expansion at Loop Earplugs, and a representative from Biosil.

15:50–16:10 IP Protection & Doing Business in China: practical insights into intellectual property protection, navigating the Chinese business environment, and key considerations for companies looking to enter the market.

Speaker: Claudio Bergonzi, Director Global IP Enforcement at Alibaba Group.

16:10–16:25 Closing & Key Takeaways

16:25–18:00 Networking reception, including the opportunity for **individual matchmaking** sessions with Alibaba.

Practical Information

What? Seminar on E-commerce in China

Where? Marie-Elisabeth Belpaire Building, Simon Bolivarlaan 17, 1000 Brussels

When? December 16, 2026, from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Registration deadline: December 7, 2026. Be sure to sign up quickly, as space is limited!

Participation fee: Free, but registration is required.

Do you have any questions? Please get in touch with us. We are happy to help.

Frederic Deprez, Deputy Director Trade Greater China frederic.deprez@fitagency.be

Kristof Cuvelier, Business Officer Business Development APAC-ME kristof.cuvelier@fitagency.be

FLANDERS INVESTMENT & TRADE: www.flandersinvestmentandtrade.be

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Symposium: 'Bridging Borders: International Academic Collaboration in a Fragmented World' – 4 January 2027



At the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Africa Platform and the East Asia Platform, the 10th anniversary of the CESAM Platform, ASEAN & South Asia Platform, and Eureast Platform, and the 5th anniversary of the North America Platform, Ghent University's Regional Platforms warmly invite you to this special anniversary symposium.

The symposium will reflect on a pressing question for higher education today: how can international academic

collaboration thrive in an increasingly fragmented world?

The symposium features a key note address by Alexander De Croo, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and former Prime Minister of Belgium and will be followed by a panel discussion bringing together experts from academia and beyond. We will conclude with a networking reception.

Time: January 4, 2027; 3pm – 6:30pm

Venue: Wintercircus, Lammerstraat 13, 9000 Ghent

Deadline for registration: 17 December 2026

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VIP VISITS

Presidents Xi, Trump and Putin meet at APEC Summit in Shenzhen



The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting was held in Shenzhen, attended by world leaders including U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, and hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping. The three presidents also held an unprecedented separate trilateral meeting. President Xi personally welcomed Donald Trump at Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport. It was the first time in nearly seven decades that China's top leader had welcomed a visiting foreign head of state at an airport.

In his opening speech to the CEO summit, **Xi called for cooperation and innovation to bring prosperity** to the Asia-Pacific region to weather the turbulent world at a time when "global growth lacks momentum, and unilateralism and protectionism are rampant". He also assured world leaders that China would continue to open up, positioning the country as a "supersize market" and **"a promised land of development" for the global business community through innovation**.

"China will not only cut tariffs and expand market access but also go a step further – we will carry out reform in challenging areas, such as rules, regulations and standards, in order to fully ensure market access and an accommodating operating environment in the manufacturing sector, to steadily expand opening up in the service sector, and to foster a more stable and more predictable first-class environment for companies from around the world to invest and do business in China," Xi said. He added that **China would support the establishment of a World Association for Bay Area Economic Cooperation** "to deepen exchanges among bay areas from across the world". "Shenzhen's story is a microcosm of China's reform and opening-up," Xi said in his toast to the guests, adding that the city's development was "a successful example of Asia-Pacific cooperation".

The meeting of the three presidents was historic because it was the first time this took place, but did not lead to substantial agreements. The joint pledge to reduce nuclear risk sends a positive signal on stability, analysts say, although they warn that there is little room for optimism without concrete measures. "The contrast between President Trump's stated ambition to negotiate a new arms control treaty and the declaration's lack of substance could hardly be starker," said Zhao Tong, Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, adding that the declaration "fell far short of expectations". The joint statement focused on United Nations reform, nuclear risk reduction, global energy supplies and the jurisdiction of international courts.

The three leaders added that a nuclear war "cannot be won and must never be fought", even as Xi urged Washington to "do the right thing" on Taiwan and Trump called for greater Chinese cooperation on agriculture, energy and artificial intelligence (AI). Countries should abandon the "Cold War mentality" and enhance economic and trade cooperation rather than pursue decoupling, Xi said. "Global

energy security faces severe challenges, and the three nations can strengthen communication to safeguard the stability of energy supply chains."

Chilean President Jose Antonio Kast, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and representatives of 115 Fortune Global 500 companies attended the **APEC CEO Summit 2026**. Describing Asia-Pacific business communities as "pioneers of the global economy", Xi encouraged business leaders to take an active part in China's reform and opening up and to "share in the opportunities created by Chinese modernization". Xi said that China, the world's second-largest consumer market, offers businesses new opportunities in areas ranging from new energy vehicles to smart homes and from goods and services for older consumers to winter tourism. As China accelerates the development of a big, open market and increases imports of quality products and services, more diverse demand will be unleashed, he said.

President Xi also said that **China will continue to host the "Export to China"** events to open efficient channels to help quality products from across the world enter the Chinese market. China is a supersized innovation testing ground where frontier technologies are tested, improved and upgraded in real-world scenarios and are then turned into high-quality growth drivers, Xi said. He pointed to robots at work in factories and on farms, autonomous driving and drone delivery as examples of how companies are putting new technologies to use.

"No matter how the international landscape may evolve, China will not waver in its pursuit of win-win cooperation with all other countries," he said. China will will allow full manufacturing access with an accommodating business climate and steadily expand opening-up in the services sector, he said. For Annette Gregg, CEO of the World Trade Centers Association, the message from Xi's speech to companies is clear. "If you want to do business with China, China is open to you and ready for your business," she said. Gregg said that China's advances in robotics, artificial intelligence and green technology hold particular appeal for the United States market.

The two-day CEO summit launched the Shenzhen Initiative, the first time in its 30-year history that it has published an initiative. China is hosting APEC for the third time, having previously hosted the leaders' meeting in Shanghai in 2001 and Beijing in 2014.

This overview is based on reports by the China Daily, Global Times and South China Morning Post.

TRAVEL

Payments becoming more convenient for overseas visitors



Major Chinese banks and payment platforms are ramping up efforts to make payments more convenient for overseas visitors, expanding foreign bank card acceptance, overseas digital wallet connectivity and currency exchange services. The changes are intended to facilitate international travel, particularly as Shenzhen in Guangdong province hosted the 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Meeting. WeChat Pay is offering inbound visitors a range of payment options. Users can link overseas bank cards issued by seven major international payment networks, including Visa and Mastercard, or **pay through more than 60 overseas digital wallets from 16 countries and regions via a unified cross-border QR code gateway.** The services cover shopping, dining, transportation and healthcare.

China Construction Bank's Shenzhen branch has partnered with WeChat Pay to launch a cross-border QR code payment service that allows overseas visitors to pay Chinese merchants using their existing digital wallets. **Visitors** do not need to download an additional payment app or link a Chinese bank card. Instead, they **can simply scan merchants' QR codes with their overseas wallets**, while CCB handles currency conversion and settlement.

In the first 10 months of 2026, payments made by overseas users through foreign bank cards linked to WeChat Pay increased 74% year-on-year, while transactions made by scanning QR codes directly with overseas digital wallets connected to the platform rose 84%. The Shenzhen branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) has focused on improving financial services in four key areas – shopping, accommodation, transportation, and culture and tourism, while prioritizing airports and border crossings, often the first points of contact for visitors entering China.

Cheng Yifei, Manager of the Overseas Management and Cross-Border Services Team at Bank of China's Personal Banking Department, said the bank currently provides currency exchange services for up to 39 foreign currencies and cash services for 36. BOC has also introduced exchange services in Shenzhen for several less commonly

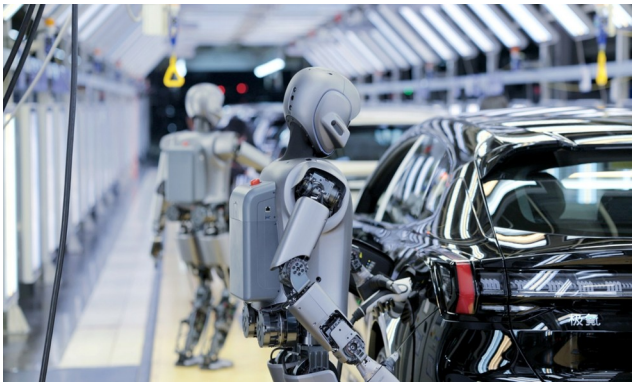
traded currencies, including the Vietnamese dong, Brunei dollar and Mexican peso. BOC has also continued to expand foreign bank card acceptance. As of the end of September, more than 120,000 merchants nationwide could accept overseas bank cards through the bank. In Shenzhen, its foreign card service network covers major shopping districts, star-rated hotels and restaurant chains, key spending destinations for international visitors.

In addition, the bank has expanded its network of departure tax refund services and serves as a primary authorized tax refund agent in 27 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities. Overseas visitors can apply for refunds through point-of-sale terminals, the BOC Compass app or self-service tax refund machines, with refunds available through cash transfers or electronic payments, Cheng said. In Shenzhen, BOC's self-service tax refund machines have reduced the processing time to just three minutes. They also support refunds to e-CNY hard wallets, physical devices that store digital yuan.

Efforts to make payments more convenient for foreign nationals in China form part of a broader push by major Chinese banks to strengthen their cross-border financial services and develop new sources of growth. With interest rates remaining low, Chinese banks are facing mounting pressure on their net interest margins, prompting them to explore cross-border finance as a potential growth driver and a way to improve profitability, the China Daily reports.

MANUFACTURING

China unveils 34 new smart factories



China has unveiled 34 flagship smart factories across 20 provincial-level regions, expanding the initiative into more consumer-facing industries as the country steps up efforts to integrate artificial intelligence (AI) technology into manufacturing, boost productivity and accelerate the digital transformation of its industrial sector. The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) and five other departments released the **2026 flagship smart factory cultivation list**, which includes major manufacturers such as Xiaomi Auto. Pharmaceutical and apparel manufacturers were included for the first time, highlighting the initiative's widening industry coverage. As the second batch of flagship smart factories, they have reported an average 34.4% increase in labor productivity and a 19.3% rise in production efficiency, while helping nearly 4,000 enterprises carry out digital and intelligent transformation. Industry coverage has further expanded compared with the previous batch. Beyond equipment manufacturing, steel, electronic information and other fields, pharmaceutical and apparel enterprises in the consumer goods sector were included for the first time, according to the list released by the MIIT.

The list includes smart factory projects from leading Chinese manufacturers across the vehicle, power equipment and shipbuilding sectors, including Xiaomi Auto, FAW-Volkswagen, Harbin Electric Machinery and Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding. The announcement by the six departments calls for supporting flagship smart factories in building high-quality industrial datasets, developing industrial AI agents, exploring advanced manufacturing models and establishing smart supply chains. The requirements highlight a broader shift in smart factory development, from equipment automation toward deeper integration of AI, industrial data and supply chain coordination. **The MIIT announced 15 candidate factories on November 24, 2025, so the latest batch brings the total number to 49.**

Li Changan, Professor at the School of Public Administration at the University of International Business and Economics, told the Global Times that the integration of AI with manufacturing is a major technological force driving the development of modern manufacturing. The inclusion of pharmaceutical and apparel manufacturers in the latest list shows that AI technologies are expanding beyond a limited number of industries and becoming increasingly integrated into traditional manufacturing sectors, according to Li. The expert further noted that the list not only reflects the progress of AI applications in manufacturing, but also serves as a demonstration and a model for the wider industry, encouraging more traditional manufacturers to accelerate technological upgrades and transformation. This trend is expected to further strengthen China's manufacturing capabilities, improve product quality and enhance the global competitiveness of its manufacturing sector.

China has been accelerating the development of smart manufacturing. As of the end of June, the country had more than 56,000 basic-level, 9,000 advanced-level and 500 excellence-level smart factories, according data released in October, highlighting the expanding scale of its manufacturing digitalization drive. China is stepping up efforts to integrate AI into industrial production. Under an

action plan released in January, the country aims to develop 1,000 high-level industrial AI agents and 100 high-quality industrial datasets by 2027, while promoting AI applications across manufacturing. The expansion of flagship smart factories is expected to help turn technological advances into practical industrial applications and extend productivity gains across supply chains, the Global Times reports.

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CHINA NEWS ROUND-UP

China's emerging industries grow strongly, led by AI and aerospace

China's emerging industries and advanced manufacturing sectors kept up strong growth in the first three quarters of 2026. New business registrations in aerospace, integrated circuits (ICs) and artificial intelligence (AI) rose notably, according to the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR). The figures underscore the accelerating growth of China's innovation-driven economy, with technological breakthroughs, expanding industrial applications, and comprehensive manufacturing supply chains creating new opportunities for businesses, a Chinese expert said. The continued expansion of emerging industries, particularly the strong participation of private enterprises, will provide fresh impetus for China's industrial upgrading and high-quality economic development, he added. The number of registered enterprises operating in the country's **"four new" economies" – new technology, new business patterns, new development modes, and new industry** – was up 5.6% year-on-year as of the end of September, the SAMR said in a statement.

Among emerging industries, newly registered enterprises engaged in spacecraft and launch vehicle manufacturing surged 73.3% year-on-year during the January-September period, while those in integrated circuit manufacturing increased 21.1%. Frontier technology sectors recorded rapid expansion. The number of newly registered enterprises in generative AI reached 90,000 in the first nine months, up 28.1% year-on-year, while the humanoid robotics sector saw 170,000 new registrations, an increase of 9.5%. Advanced manufacturing continued to expand, with 218,000 new enterprises registered nationwide. Eastern China accounted for 138,000 of these registrations, up 2.6% year-on-year, underscoring the region's important role in supporting industrial development.

Notably, private enterprises remained a major driving force, accounting for 199,000 newly registered advanced manufacturing businesses, an increase of 0.2% from a year earlier. Among the 13 categories of advanced manufacturing, four recorded growth rates exceeding 4% in new business registrations. These included advanced petrochemical and chemical materials manufacturing, up 5.1%; frontier new materials manufacturing, up 5%; and high-end equipment manufacturing, up 4.2%. Hu Qimu, Professor at the Maritime Silk Road Institute of Huaqiao University, told the Global Times that the strong growth in aerospace and integrated circuit manufacturing shows how technological advances are driving demand across industrial supply chains. "This creates opportunities not only for leading manufacturers but also for smaller companies specializing in components, equipment and supporting services," the expert said.

Shenzhen-developed robots gaining popularity

Shenzhen-developed robots are gaining increasing popularity among Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies, with orders surging and a growing number of visitors traveling to the city for a first-hand experience of the high-tech products. According to Shenzhen Customs, the total value of Shenzhen-made robots exported to APEC member economies hit CNY4.86 billion in the first three quarters of the year, up 7.5 times from the same period a year earlier.

At the factory floor of **Pudu Robotics**, a Shenzhen-based commercial service robot manufacturer, five intelligent production lines operate at full capacity as batches of industrial humanoid robots undergo machine performance testing. The robots are scheduled to be shipped to customers from South Korea, Singapore and other economies in the Asia-Pacific region once tests are completed. Global demand for intelligent robots is on the rise and the number of buyers from APEC economies is also increasing, said Guo Cong, Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Pudu. "We received over 1,000 global buyers within five days during the first phase of the 140th Canton Fair and many of them came from APEC economies such as Canada and Australia," he said. The tech company **has so far shipped more than 130,000 robots to over 85 countries and regions** and served more than 50,000 end customers, Guo added.

As robotic services become more accessible to businesses and individuals, **the robot rental business is also gaining momentum in Shenzhen**. Among approximately 1,500 newly established robot rental firms across the nation in 2025, Shenzhen accounted for about 20%.

Stronger robot manufacturing capacity and increased supply have pushed rental prices lower. At the world's first robot 6S store in the city's Longgang district, dozens of models are available for rent, with rental fees ranging from CNY1,000 to tens of thousands of yuan. The 6S store integrates six major functions including sales, spare parts supply, after-sales service, survey, leasing and personalized customization. Lin Feng, Manager of the 6S store, said robot leasing orders have jumped 50% since September compared with normal periods, with weekly orders hitting 40 to 50.

The market has shifted from business-only uses to personal requirements such as birthday parties and family gatherings, which make up roughly 10% of orders, Fan Congming, Executive President of the Shenzhen Artificial Intelligence Industry Association, said. For family gatherings robots can serve as waiters, and for entertainment, gift delivery and interactive play. According to market research firm iiMedia Research, China's robot rental market is expected to top CNY10 billion this year, representing growth of more than 900% year-on-year, the China Daily reports.

MIIT approves eight regions for 6G pilot development

China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) approved eight provincial-level regions including Beijing, Shanghai and Jiangsu province **to participate in a 6G innovation and development pilot program**, as the country steps up efforts to advance 6G technological innovation, foster the industrial ecosystem, expand application scenarios, and support the commercial deployment of 6G. Key areas of work include developing the 6G application industry, strengthening the industrial foundation and exploring new product pathways. MIIT said that it will regularly evaluate the pilot program and provide organizational support in technology testing, spectrum resources, project planning, the application of research and industrial ecosystem development. In terms of industrial capacity, each applicant region must have at least one leading 6G-related enterprise with a strong domestic or international presence, as well as at least three enterprises or institutions that have undertaken major national science and technology projects related to 6G. The pilot program will run for three years. Participating regions must submit annual progress reports to the MIIT by December 15 each year.

Companies involved in commercial 6G applications must obtain the required telecommunications business licenses in accordance with the law, and may not explore commercial applications before obtaining the necessary licenses. Activities involving radio frequencies, radio stations and radio transmission equipment must also comply with national regulations and obtain the required licenses and approvals. China is advancing the development of 6G through parallel efforts in terrestrial communications and satellite networks, with a focus on integrated space-ground connectivity. China is conducting commercial trials of satellite Internet of Things (IoT) services with two private companies having received approval to participate. The MIIT will support more eligible companies in applying for the trials. Companies including GalaxySpace and AdaSpace are working on technologies related to direct satellite connectivity for mobile phones and space-based computing, the Global Times reports.

Vehicle export trains hit 10,000 trip milestone

China's dedicated freight trains carrying domestically manufactured vehicles for export have made a cumulative 10,000 trips, a milestone in the country's expanding automobile exports as growing overseas demand and improving international logistics networks support the industry's global expansion. The milestone was reached on November 19 when a train carrying 203 Chinese-made new-energy vehicles (NEVs) departed from Zhengzhou International Land Port in Henan province. The vehicles will travel by rail to Shanghai before being loaded onto a roll-on/roll-off vessel bound for Australia, a journey of more than 10,000 kilometers. The accelerating rail services reflect robust overseas demand for Chinese-made vehicles. More than two million vehicles have been transported for export by rail so far this year, up 79% year-on-year.

The growth comes amid a broader expansion in China's automobile exports. **The country exported 9.271 million vehicles in the first 10 months of 2026, up 65.1% year-on-year**, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM). NEV exports reached 4.612 million units during the period, rising 130% year-on-year. October alone saw exports of 1.066 million vehicles, marking the fifth consecutive month that shipments exceeded 1 million units. China's expanding presence in overseas markets has provided further momentum. Industry data showed that Brazil, Belgium, the UK, Australia and Thailand were among the leading destinations for Chinese NEV exports in the first nine months, reflecting demand across Latin America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. Improvements in cross-border logistics have strengthened the industry's export capacity.

To meet growing demand for vehicle exports, railway operators have expanded regular routes through land ports including Horgos, Manzhouli and Alashankou, while using the China-Laos Railway to reach Southeast Asian markets. Combined with expanding rail-sea intermodal services, these routes are strengthening international logistics links for Chinese automakers, a Chinese expert noted. The expansion of transport capacity and more efficient rail-sea connections are helping Chinese automakers reach overseas customers, underscoring how manufacturing competitiveness and logistics infrastructure are supporting the industry's growing role in global markets, Zhang Xiang, a visiting Professor in the Engineering Department of Zhengzhou-based Huanghe Science and Technology University, told the Global Times.

U.S. bans Chinese telecom operators from accessing U.S. phone numbers

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to bar China Mobile, China Telecom, China Unicom and other IP-enabled service providers from

direct access to U.S. phone numbers, a measure the agency said would provide the "first line of defense" against illegal robocalling campaigns. "These rules will require new national security-focused certifications and improved authorization processes before Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers can get direct access to phone numbers," the FCC said in a statement. VoIP services carry voice calls over the internet. Getting direct access to U.S. phone numbers cuts costs for providers and lets them offer advanced calling features more easily. The new restriction also applies to IP-enabled service providers that use equipment from companies on the agency's Covered List, which identifies firms posing national security risks. That list includes Chinese telecoms firms Huawei Technologies and ZTE.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington said China "firmly opposes and deplores" the move and the U.S. is "overstretching the concept of national security and abusing state power to go after Chinese businesses. "China will do what is necessary to firmly defend its legitimate and lawful rights and interests," Embassy Spokesman Liu Chang told the South China Morning Post. The agency is also considering proposals to bar Chinese telecoms operators from connecting to U.S. networks and operating data centers in the U.S. In October, Hong Kong telecoms carrier HKT International agreed to halt its U.S. operations by September 2027 under pressure from the FCC. The regulator had moved last year to bar the firm from operating in the country, with Chairman Brendan Carr declaring that "Chinese Communist Party-controlled entities that pose national security risks to our country cannot connect to our telecoms networks". The low profile U.S. agency has emerged as one of the Trump administration's leading regulators targeting Chinese technology firms, even as other departments, including Commerce and Treasury, maintained a more restrained approach, the South China Morning Post reports.

U.S. panel warns of China's biotech rise

China was gaining a "competitive advantage" in biopharmaceuticals, and Western firms were increasingly paying large upfront fees to license Chinese drugs thanks to the country's "growing innovative capacity", the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC) said in an annual report. "We are on a trajectory where China will become an innovation hub to potentially replace even the United States," Commission Member Leland Miller said during a congressional hearing. The report has "added fuel to an existing push in Washington" to ramp up its scrutiny of China biotech, said Lizzi C. Lee, Fellow on the Chinese economy at the Asia Society Policy Institute's Center for China Analysis. The Commission, an independent panel established by the U.S. Congress in 2000, advises lawmakers on the national security implications of the economic and trade relationship between the world's two largest economies.

Covering a broad range of issues including China's trade surplus, artificial intelligence and subsea telecommunications, the USCC's top recommendation for lawmakers this year was cooperating with India to reduce reliance on Chinese active pharmaceutical ingredients (API). The U.S. was "heavily dependent" on China for raw pharmaceutical ingredients used in generic drugs that have "few immediate substitutes", such as the blood thinner heparin and other hospital antibiotics, the Commission said. That posed "national security, economic and public health risks" to the U.S., it warned.

To encourage local manufacturers to invest in alternative sources of ingredients, Congress should set up a program that allowed the U.S. government to purchase ingredients from "trusted partners" and that supported production in India, according to the panel. While the report this year did not garner widespread attention in China's healthcare industry, some experts warned that such localization plans could backfire. "We understand the U.S. policy push to onshore production, but doing so would drive up costs and inflation," said Jialing Dai, Co-founder and President of Chinese biopharma market research platform PharmaDJ. "No single country can produce all APIs, and human healthcare requires cooperation," Dai said. "If the sole focus is on cutting ties, the U.S. and China will only end up hurting themselves, while regions such as Europe and India will benefit."

Franck Le Deu, Managing Partner at Hong Kong-based KerZheng Ventures and venture partner at Aulis Capital, said that the API dependency was "a legitimate concern for Western economies, not just the U.S.". **"Whether creating a higher dependency on India is the right path – or not – is debatable,"** he said. Washington has grown increasingly alarmed by China's rapidly expanding presence in the global biopharmaceutical industry, and is weighing restrictions on cross-border investments, the South China Morning Post reports.

Central China Expo promoted investment and trade in six provinces

The 14th Central China Investment and Trade Exposition was held in Zhengzhou, capital of Henan province, to promote trade and investment cooperation in the region. Themed **"Building three bases and one hub to accelerate the rise of Central China"**, the Expo focused on the region's position as an important base for grain production, energy and raw materials, modern equipment manufacturing and high-tech industries, and comprehensive transport, Commerce Vice Minister Ling Ji said at a news conference. The six provinces in China's central region – Shanxi, Anhui, Jiangxi, Henan, Hubei and Hunan – account for about one-tenth of the country's land area, a quarter of its population and one-fifth of its economic output.

For the first time, a high-level symposium on accelerating the rise of Central China was held, bringing together representatives from the region to discuss new measures for regional development. The Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) also held a special event to encourage national-level economic and technological development zones in Central China to innovate development paths. Zhang Min, Executive Vice Governor of Henan, said the Expo featured 10 industry matchmaking events focusing on the strengths of the six provinces, covering key industrial chains and clusters in sectors such as intelligent manufacturing, intelligent connected new energy vehicles,

electronic information and biomedicine. The Expo has also invited senior representatives from international organizations and business associations, executives from firms on the Fortune Global 500 list, and heads of leading enterprises and prominent investment institutions. Among those invited are executives from companies including Walmart, Siemens, Chery and CATL. The Expo had 30,000 square meters of exhibition space.

The six provinces organized investment promotion and matchmaking activities based on their respective industrial strengths. Henan focused on intelligent manufacturing, modern foodstuffs and super-hard materials, while Shanxi highlighted cooperation in its new materials industrial chain and Anhui promoted intelligent connected NEVs and high-end equipment manufacturing. Jiangxi focused on its key industries, Hubei emphasized industrial cooperation and innovation in the Wuhan metropolitan area, while Hunan promoted advanced manufacturing and frontier materials. The Expo is held every two years, rotating among the six central provinces. The 13th edition was held in Changsha, capital of Hunan, in 2024, the China Daily reports.

Nvidia turmoil to push China's chip growth

Nvidia has stopped shipping licensed Hopper data center products to China, interim CEO Colette Kress said during the company's earnings call. The disclosure came as Nvidia put export compliance under direct board oversight and ruled out reinstating Co-founder Jensen Huang as CEO, a move that Chinese experts said reflected growing political pressure in the U.S. that could weigh on the company's business and further accelerate China's shift to domestic chips. Asked to comment on remarks by the interim CEO of Nvidia that it was no longer shipping licensed Hopper data center products to China, which means that the H200 chips that were previously allowed into China under a deal with Washington are no longer being sent over, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun said China had made clear more than once its principled position on U.S. chip exports to China. China has previously stated that the U.S. has overstretched the concept of national security, abused export control measures, and even wantonly interfered with normal trade and scientific and technological cooperation between China and other countries, while unjustifiably suppressing the development of China's high-tech industries.

Chinese analysts said the announced move by Nvidia will have limited impact. "The H200's main strength is large-language model inference," Chen Jing, Vice President of the Technology and Strategy Research Institute, told the Global Times. Domestic chips such as Huawei's Ascend and Cambricon's processors can already handle many inference tasks, giving Chinese artificial intelligence (AI) companies more options for running existing models, he said. "The impact on China is limited," Telecom Industry Analyst Ma Jihua said, citing modest Hopper shipments to the country. If the halt persists, some Chinese firms may need to rethink how they run their AI models, potentially accelerating the shift to domestic chips, he said. "There's still a gap, but it's narrowing," Ma said of Chinese alternatives to the H200.

In his first public statement since resigning, Huang said that he would return if invited. Nvidia Chair Harvey Jones told the earnings call that the board had unanimously accepted his resignation and did not intend to reinstate him. Nvidia also announced a standing committee on national security and export controls. The company's national security and global trade compliance teams will report directly to the committee. "On the surface, it seemingly makes Nvidia a safer company, with stronger compliance and less political risk," Zhang Xiaorong, Director of the Beijing-based Cutting-Edge Technology Research Institute, told the Global Times. "The cost is that it may lead to self-imposed restrictions and gradually lose its competitive edge."

In its first earnings report since Huang's resignation, Nvidia said that fiscal third-quarter revenue rose 103% year-on-year to USD115.8 billion, with data center revenue rising 110% to USD107.6 billion. The company shipped USD2.4 billion worth of Hopper data center products to China during the quarter. Nvidia forecast fourth-quarter revenue of USD130 billion, with growth of plus or minus 3%. As in its previous outlook, it assumed no data center computing revenue from China.

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Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce
Office: Ajuinlei 1, B-9000 Gent, Belgium
New telephone and fax numbers:
T ++32/9/269.52.46
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E info@flanders-china.be
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