

Proposal for a China-EU Climate Pact

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Proposal for a China – European Union Climate Pact

This proposal, developed between Greenpeace East Asia and Greenpeace EU, outlines the grounds for a pact between China and the European Union, identifying key areas of joint action over the next couple years and science-based baselines for engagement. It was developed and shared around the China-EU Summit in 2025.

The global climate crisis represents one of the most urgent and complex challenges facing humanity. Addressing it effectively requires coordinated international action based on the principles of multilateralism and shared responsibility. Regrettably, recent years have witnessed a troubling increase in the number of nations seeking to evade their climate obligations, undermining global efforts to limit catastrophic warming.

In this context, the leadership of the People's Republic of China and the European Union should take a decisive step forward by concluding the *China–European Union Climate Pact*. This ambitious and cooperative framework aims to reinforce the integrity of the multilateral climate regime established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to demonstrate joint global leadership, and to fortify multilateralism in the face of an increasingly assertive and divisive nationalism. The pact is envisioned as a vehicle for advancing international climate objectives through concrete, bilateral action that can serve as a model for others.

Key Components of the proposed pact:

- **Deployment of existing green technologies:**

China and the European Union should commit to intensified cooperation in scaling up the deployment of mature green technologies. These include electric vehicles, solar photovoltaics, wind turbines, battery storage systems, and heat pumps, among others. This collaboration is intended to ensure the preservation of manufacturing capacity within the EU, while leveraging China's ability to deliver such technologies at scale and at competitive costs. The objective is to accelerate the decarbonisation of energy and transport systems across both regions and bring benefits at the global scale.

- **Innovation and development of emerging technologies:**

Recognising the need for next-generation solutions, the proposed pact envisions close collaboration on the research, development, and deployment of future technologies. These include advanced battery systems, green hydrogen electrolyzers, electric aviation, and other frontier innovations, as well as the digital and systemic infrastructures needed to support them. By combining their scientific and industrial capabilities, China and the EU aim to shorten development timelines and bring breakthrough solutions to market more rapidly.

- **Strengthening International Climate Cooperation:**

The two parties should work jointly to support decarbonisation efforts in third countries through trilateral partnerships and via multilateral institutions and processes. This includes sharing best practices, investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, and facilitating access to clean technologies for developing economies. The pact reinforces a commitment to inclusive and equitable global climate action, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

- **Enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):**

Both China and the EU should pledge to submit NDCs that align with the 1.5°C limit on global temperature rise as outlined in the Paris Agreement.

These contributions will reflect the full extent of their technological and financial capabilities and their responsibility as major global emitters.

Specifically, by 2035:

- **China** will commit to a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions relative to its peak levels.
- The **European Union** will reduce its GHG emissions by 78% compared to 1990 levels, based solely on domestic measures, without the use of international credits or offsets.

- **Phased transition away from fossil fuels:**

The proposed pact establishes clear timelines for the phase-out of fossil fuels in line with the first Global Stocktake concluded at COP28. China commits to halting the expansion of coal-fired power plants by 2025 and to initiating a structural transition away from coal including milestones. The European Union pledges a sequential phase-out of fossil fuels: coal by 2030, gas by 2035, and finally oil by 2040. These commitments underscore both parties' intent to lead by example in eliminating the primary sources of carbon emissions.

- **Aligning trade policies with climate goals**

China and the EU should work together to create international trade and economic conditions that can boost innovation, scale up investment, and provide widespread, affordable tools for the global transition away from fossil fuels. Both parties recognize that the race for a clean economy is not zero-sum, and they also recognize that industrial and trade policies that are labeled as "pro-climate" in one region may be perceived as protectionist and

unfair elsewhere. Both are committed to exploring pragmatic, cooperative solutions to manage their growing green competition and avoid unintentional damage to mutual trust in climate cooperation.

- **Adaptation and resilience:**

The proposed pact encompasses a commitment to scale up support for climate adaptation and resilience through increased financial and technological contributions to international or bilateral funds, initiatives, and programmes. It serves as a joint undertaking to seek for other countries' contribution at scale to match the needs of the most vulnerable countries.

This Climate Pact will serve as a call to action and a framework for global partnership. By combining ambition with pragmatism, and collaboration with accountability, China and the European Union have the potential to redefine what climate leadership means in the 21st century.

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