



A Contextualization of the Belt and Road Initiative in Portugal

BRI Conception and Vision

- China structured its global diplomatic action on the project:

**Silk Road Economic Belt and
21st-Century Maritime Silk Road (BRI)**



Announced by Xi Jinping in 2013

- **A new globalization dynamic that will change the world**
- *“The initiative will enable China to further expand and deepen its opening-up, and to strengthen its mutually beneficial cooperation with countries in Asia, Europe and Africa and the rest of the world”.*

Vision and Actions in Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road ,March 2015, NDRC and MOFCOM

The globalization dimension which China wants to reach will change the present geoeconomy and the world relations among nations.



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BRI Conception and Vision

- By being the 2nd World Economy China feels that has Global Responsibilities' and the moral obligation to actively contribute to a new conceptual model of world economic development.
- China and the World are interdependent
- Development of Regional Integrated ties
- More integrated and globally controlled world economic model





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BRI Conception and Vision

Harmony not uniformity

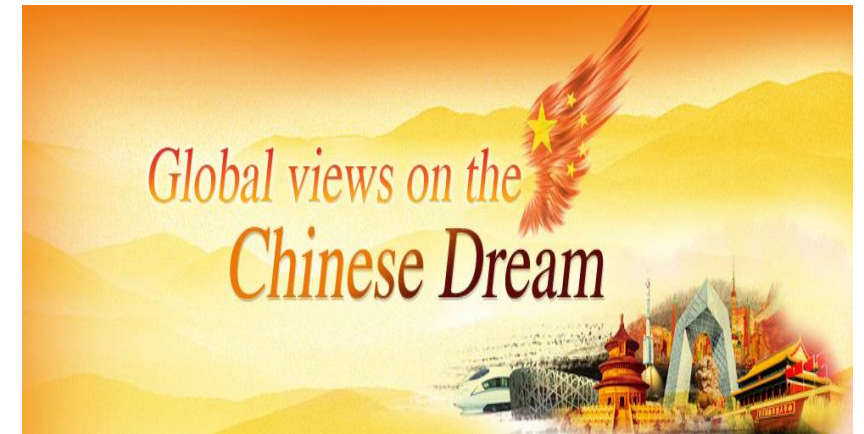
"A moral and political consensus on how different ethnic and different states groups can coexist peacefully, respect the paths and chosen modes of development".

He Huaihong Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Beijing in the Dialogue Portugal - China and New Silk Road Seminar in Lisbon, (May 2015).



*"This vision comes embedded in the Confucian ideal of Harmony and no Uniformity abiding by political consensus with moral content on how different ethnic groups and different states can coexist and cooperate peacefully in a global project, fulfilling the **Chinese Dream of a Harmonious World and a Harmonious Society**"*

Ilhéu (2016) New Silk Road-Trade and Investment Perspectives for EU and New Partnerships, Working Paper CESA/ISEG





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Principles

- **BRI respects the 5 principles of United Nations Charter;**
 1. Mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity,
 2. Mutual non-aggression,
 3. No mutual interference,
 4. Equality and mutual benefit,
 5. Peaceful coexistence
- ***“is not a Marshall Plan ... We will practice mutual consultation and mutual construction”.***

Hu Shisheng, director of the Institute of South and Southeast Asian and Oceanic Studies on the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations declared in Visions and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st - Century Maritime Silk Road (28/03/2015).



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The objectives stated by the Vision Paper are:

- Recovery of the global economy;
- Better use of resources;
- Increase connectivity between China and the countries of Asia, Europe and Africa;
- Increase market integration and construction of a multipolar world;
- Increase application of information technologies;
- Increase coordination of development strategies among countries included in the BRI;
- Investments in infrastructure, transports, maritime and energy.
- Increase trade, investment and consumption;
- Create demand and employment opportunities;
- People-to-people exchanges.



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New opportunities for global development through a Chinese New Paradigm of Modernization and new path of Economic Globalization.

From Building-up physical connectivity transport infrastructures by land, by sea and by air to the Digital Silk Road, the Silk Road of Innovation, the Green Silk Road, the Health Silk Road.



Chinese-built Caculo-Cabaca Hydropower Station in Cuanza Norte province, Angola. (China Gezhouba Group Company Limited/Handout via Xinhua), May 20th 2023



Peljesac Bridge in Komarna, Croatia, Aug. 29, 2023.



China-Laos Railway's Luang Prabang cross-Mekong River super major bridge in Laos, May 28, 2023.



Ethiopian satellite antenna during ceremony for the Ethiopian Remote Sensing Satellite, which was launched by China.



China's Digital Silk Road (DSR), The Diplomat, April 13th 2021

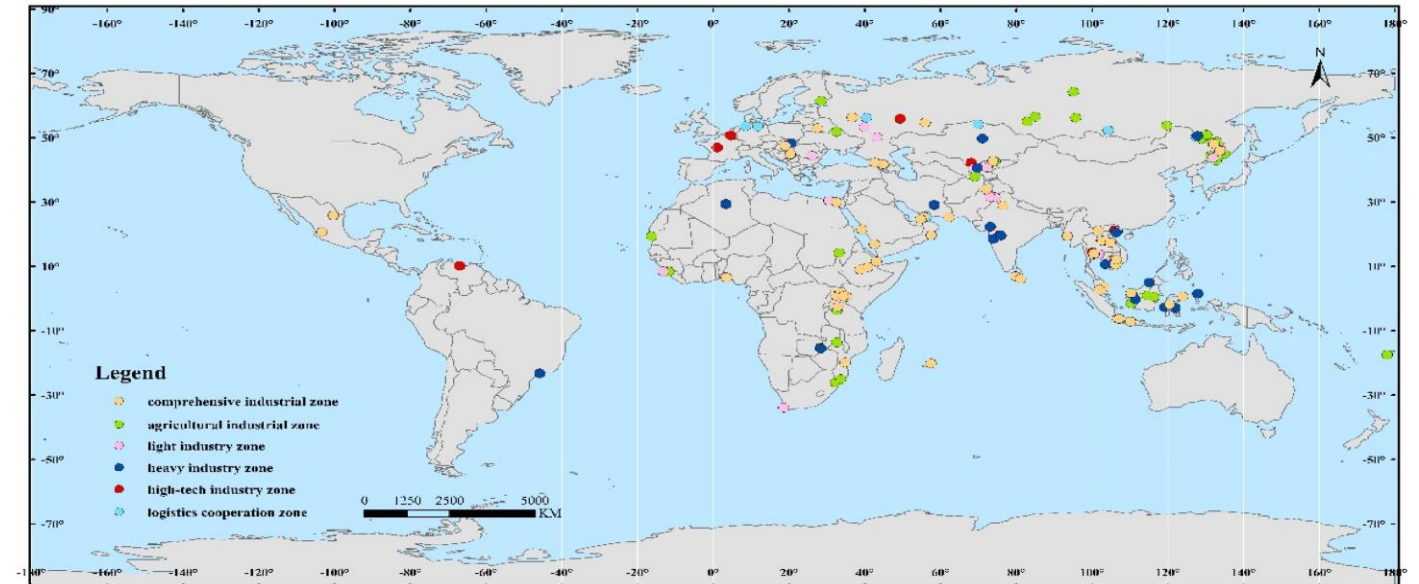


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New opportunities for global development through a Chinese New Paradigm of Modernization and new path of Economic Globalization.

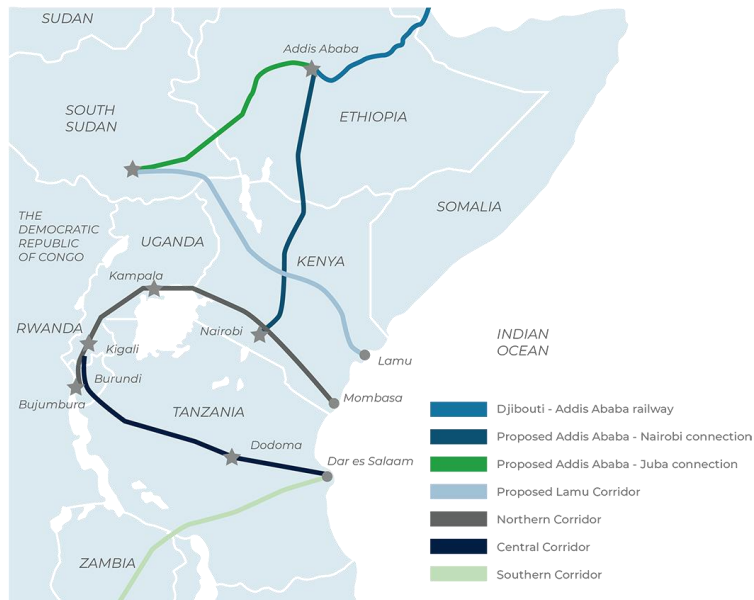
The Vision of this initiative is to create a network of Free Trade Zones a way for countries to interconnect their development strategies complementing their competitive advantages.

Types of Overseas Economic and Trade Cooperation Zones OETCZs, .



Among the 156 OETCZs, 139 are located in countries that have signed memorandums of understanding (MoU) to jointly advance the construction of the ambitious BRI.

Southeast Asia, embraced as the largest trade partner with China in 2021 in the ancient “maritime silk road” geography





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BRI project Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park.



Among the 156 Domestic International Cooperation Parks DICPs, 26 countries and regions come from Northeast Asia, such as Japan, South Korea, and developed European countries. Among all countries, Germany has the largest number - 33



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China-Germany (Shenyang) Equipment Manufacturing Industrial Park



China-Germany (Xuchang) Industrial Park



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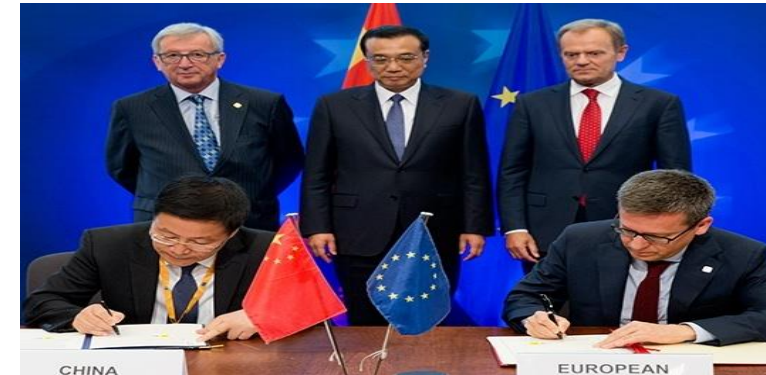
Economic Cooperation objectives between China and EU of the New Silk Road

EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda

- China's strategic partnership with the EU was in negotiation in 2015 to a deeper cooperation level. The Joint Statement of the China-EU Summit 2015 was held under the theme "***The future after 40 years of China-EU Cooperation***"

Flagships of EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda:

- Investment Plan in EU
- One Belt One Road - BRI



- *"If Brussels is unable to answer the Beijing's call to build the New Silk Road, China will pursue her goal alone or with other pro-active partners and the EU will rapidly find herself at the periphery of an economic and diplomatic network designed and realized on the terms of the Middle Country".*

(Romano Prodi; David Gosset, Huffington Post, 16/10/2015).



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Economic Cooperation objectives between China and EU of the New Silk Road

EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda

The Joint Statement of the China-EU Summit 2015 made in the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation mention;

- Trade and market access facilitation and raised the idea of creating China-EU Free Trade Zones,
- Mutual investment agreement in infrastructure and industrial parks,
- The New Silk Road – Trans-European networks and One Belt One Road,
- Digital economy,
- Improvement of communication infrastructure and transport,
- Cooperation in the financial sector and funding sources,
- Cooperation on innovation,
- Cooperation in partnership in urbanization, environment, energy, water,
- Improvements in the protection of intellectual property rights.



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Perspectives for the development of Scientific and Technological Cooperation EU-China



Donald Tusk, Li Keqiang, Jean-Claude Juncker, Carlos Moedas, Wang Gang

In the 13th meeting of the Joint Steering Committee of the **EU-China Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation** that took place in Brussels on 29 March 2017, EU and China agreed to continue to promote closer cooperation based on reciprocity and mutual benefit.

The EU and China will boost their research and innovation cooperation .

They agreed to develop a package of joint flagship initiatives with co-funding from the EU and China.

Target areas : food, agriculture and biotechnologies, environment and sustainable urbanization, surface transport, aviation, and biotechnologies and biomaterials.



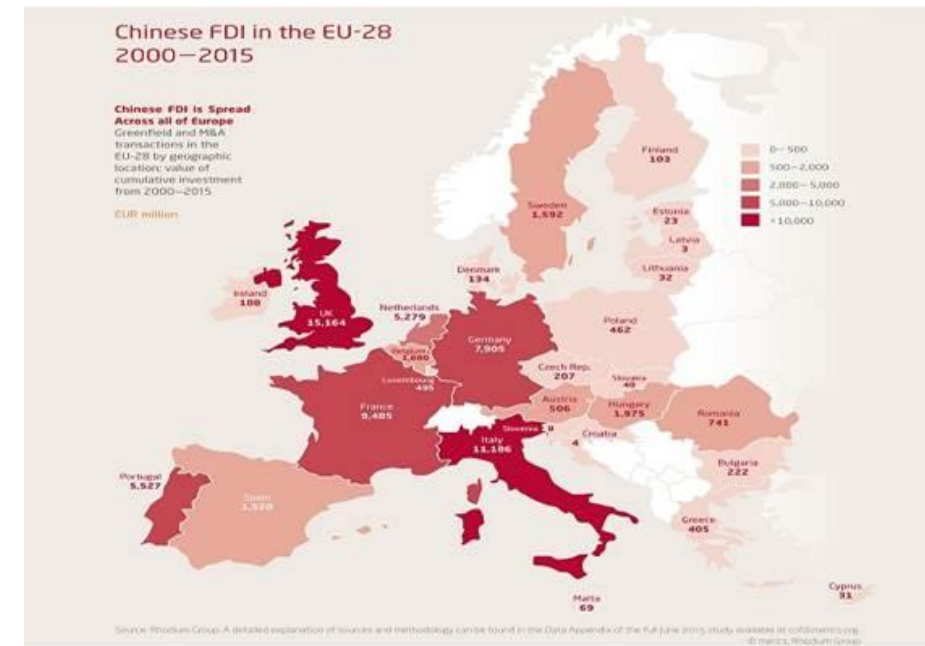
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Positive Perspectives for the development of Investment and trade EU-China

Drivers for the increasing interest of Chinese investments in Europe;

- 1st Finance
- 2nd Technology and know-how transfer to China
- 3rd External politics
- 4th Internal politics
- 5th Good bilateral diplomatic relations .

Source: Le Corre and Sepulchre (2016)



UK received 46.7% of total investment in the EU, followed by Italy (21%), Portugal (10.6%) and France (9.5%).

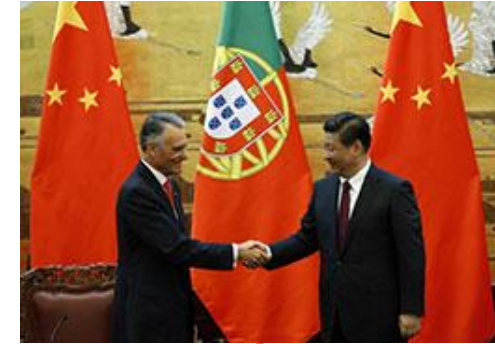
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Portugal a Strategic Partner of China

1557- 1999
Portuguese
Administration
of Macau

1987-1999 – Transition
process of the Macau
Administration from
Portugal to China.

It was signed a Joint
Declaration to strengthen
Portugal-China bilateral
relations and establish a Global
Strategic Partnership between
them.



1987

1999

2003

2005

2014



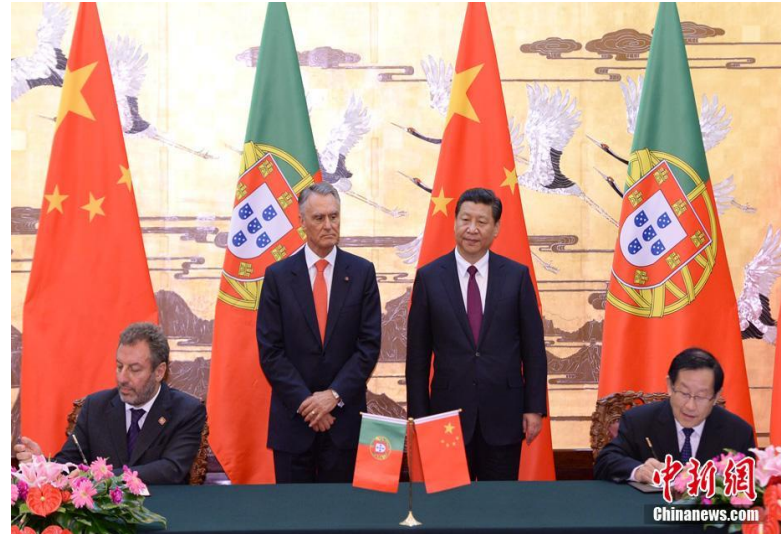
1987年中葡两国正式签署澳门问题联合声明

China's Government
creates the Forum for
Economic and Commercial
Cooperation between
China and Portuguese-
Speaking Countries.

During Cavaco Silva former
Portugal's President visit to
China, it was decided to
deepen this partnership by
promoting it as the Bilateral
Comprehensive Strategic
Cooperation Partnership.

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Partnership", means that cooperation must be on an equal footing, mutually beneficial and win-win.



“Strategic” because is long-term and stable.

President Xi Jinping and then-Portuguese president Anibal Cavaco Silva attend a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, May 15, 2014. [Photo/Chinanews.com]

“Comprehensive”, means that the cooperation must be global, far-reaching, and in multiple areas. It covers economic, scientific technologic, polititical and cultural domains, contains both bilateral as multilateral levels and is led both by governments as non-governamental groups.



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Portugal positioned at the center of the Atlantic Maritime Silk Road



We believe that Portugal, positioned at the Center of the Atlantic Maritime Route, could play an essential role in achieving One Belt and One Road in Europe.

Former Ambassador of China to Portugal, Huang Songfu, at the Colloquium commemorating the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Portugal-China strategic partnership, 3 June 2015.

In 2015 Portugal joined the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), create by China to finance infrastructure projetcts in Asia namely in the Silk Belt .



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“In addition to bilateral cooperation between China and Portugal, there is mutual availability for triangular cooperation”

“Portugal and China must join forces to promote triangular cooperation with other Portuguese-speaking countries in sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure and education, “...” environmental protection, renewable energy”

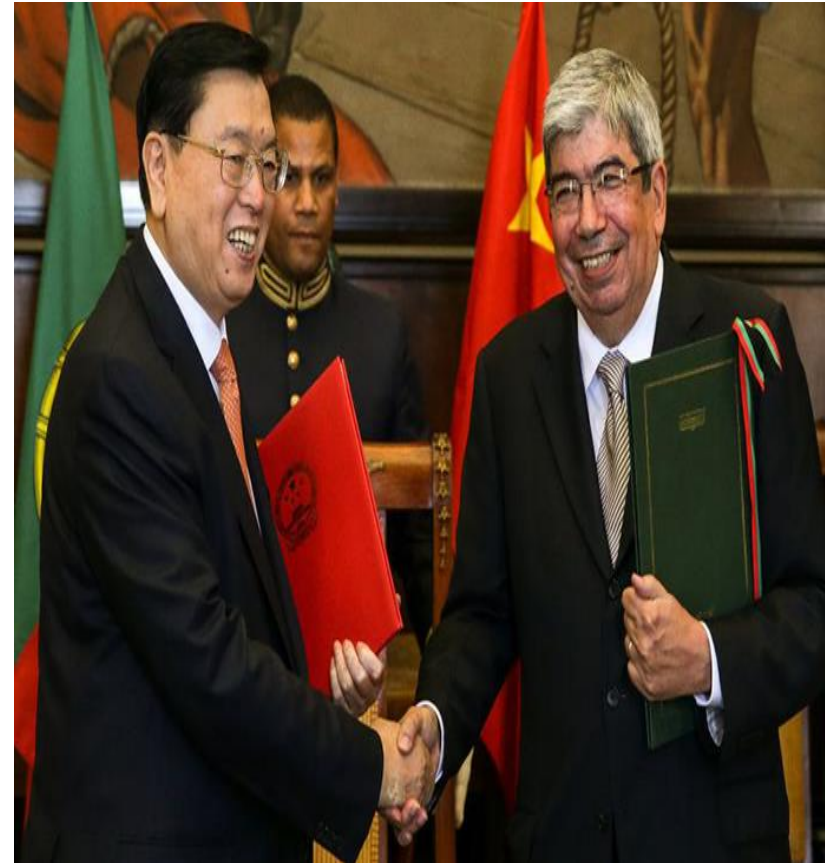
“By joining the forces of Portugal, China and Brazil and the remaining Portuguese-speaking countries, we will be able to do more together than we could do separately”

António Costa 11/10/2016 Open Ceremony of the 5th Ministerial Conference of Macau Forum.

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On July 11, 2017, the presidents of the parliaments of Portugal and China signed an MOU with the aim of strengthening legal and political instruments to increase economic cooperation between the two countries.

The text specifies that cooperation covers the **"One Belt, One Road" initiative, "in order to create a better legal and political environment to increase mutual political trust, promote economic and commercial cooperation and exchange between the two peoples".**



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Portugal is the first EU country with which China signed a Blue Partnership

“This action plan foresees concrete research projects and the expansion of understanding and partnership towards a true blue partnership»

“Agreements were made between Portuguese and Chinese companies to form consortia, to compete for several investment projects that will exist in Portugal in the port area»

Ana Paula Vitorino Minister of the Sea, Portuguese Government Website





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On December 21st the New Silk Road Friends Association was formally registered 新丝路协进会



The group of the founding partners brought together from Portuguese and Chinese civil society who joined in their personal name and whose motivation is to work towards the development of ties of friendship and cooperation between China and Portugal in various areas of economic, cultural and social activity, to cooperate in a proactive way in the construction of BRI.



Presentation of a Sectorial Strategic Plan of cooperation Portugal China in BRI in 2017



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BRI Strategic Cooperation Plan between Portugal and China presented by NSRFA to Portuguese Government and Chinese Embassy in Lisbon in 2017.



**Transports, infrastructures
logistic and industrial parks**



**Trade and e E-Business
Platform**



**Education, science, inovation,
entrepreneurship, BIR think
tanks networks**

**Projects financing , EU and
BIR financing
complementarity**



**People to People exchanges
(culture, art, expo, travelling,
events, media)**



Sea Cluster





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Through systematic planning, we will sort out project information that is of great significance to regional economic integration, and support Portugal's focus on infrastructure, energy, telecommunications, shipbuilding, shipping, and aquaculture, and promote the improvement of people's livelihood and industrial upgrading.

In conjunction with the Sino-Portuguese Cooperation Development Fund, China-EU Interconnection Platform, and other mechanisms, investment and financing support China-Portugal economic and trade cooperation, and at the same time with Portugal to consolidate and expand third-party cooperation for Portuguese-speaking countries and larger regions to achieve mutual benefit and win-win results.

Wu Shiwei – Vice-President China Development Bank Shaanxi Province

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Xi Jinping visit to Portugal 4-5 December 2018



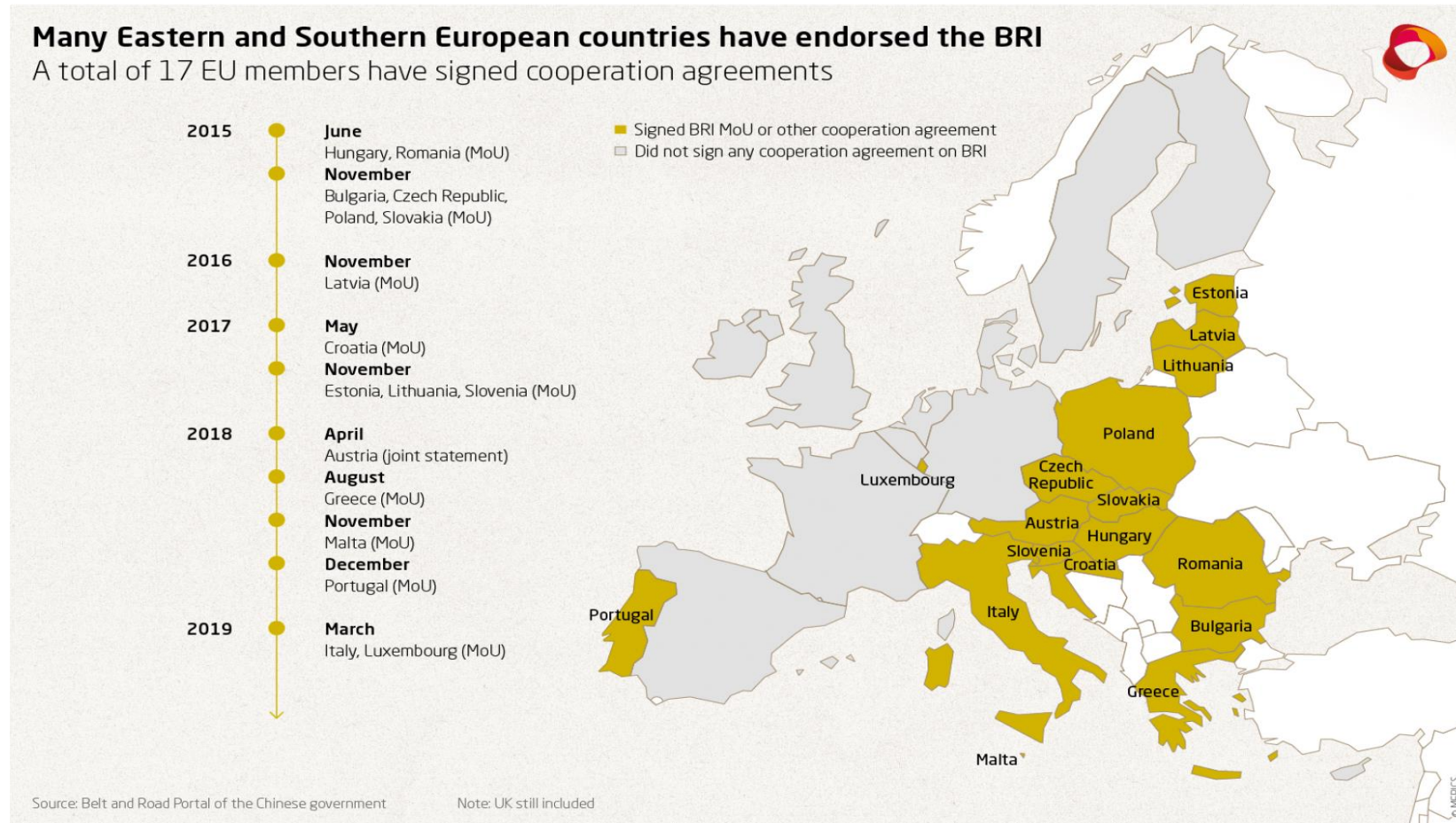
“Chinese President Xi Jinping has said China and Portugal should seize the opportunity of the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and comprehensively strengthen cooperation within the framework to boost connectivity”.

Source: CGTN 8 December 2018



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In EU 17 countries are in BRI Portugal is one of them.





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MoU Portugal- China on Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative



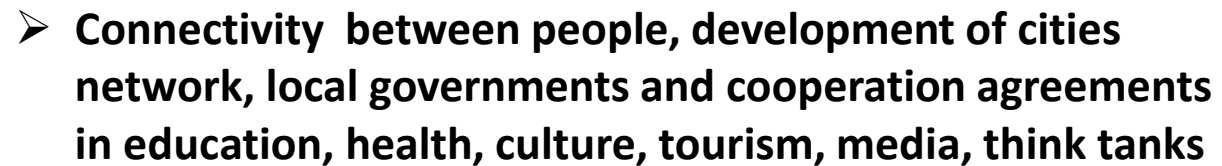
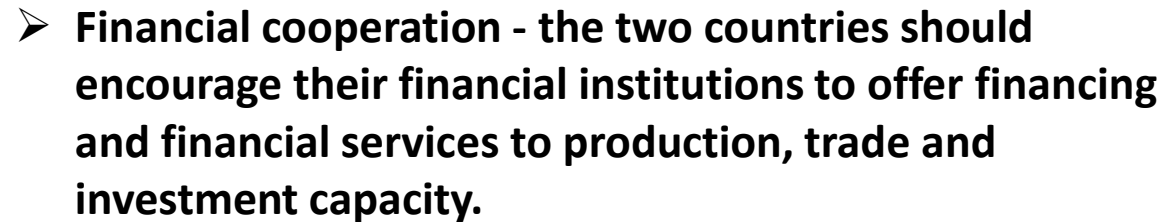
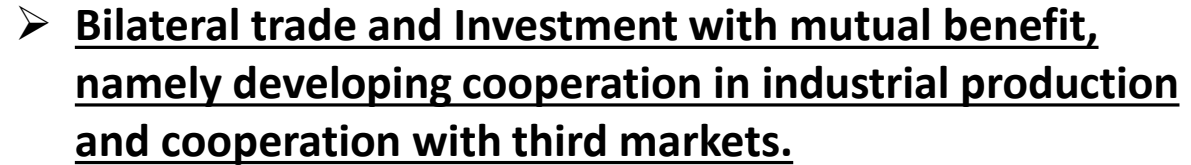
The two countries agreed to promote:

- Cooperation in the development of air, land, sea, port, transport and logistics infrastructures.
- Mobility and connectivity - electric vehicles, energy-saving infrastructures, intermodal transport solutions, strategic rail connections with Trans-European Transport Networks.
- Exchange of knowledge and experience in integration of renewables, sustainable and intelligent electricity transmission systems as well as its network management.





The two countries agreed to promote:





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Prospects for Common Growth - Portugal and China

Cooperation Modes:

Joint plans

Pilot programs in key areas

Exchanges on economic and technological cooperation

Joint research

Information sharing

Construction capacity

Personal exchanges and training

BRI Projects in Portugal

Year	Month	Investor or Builder	Sector	Value	Type
2020*	November	China Communications Construction Company	Real Estate Construction	200 M	Investiment
2020*	July	China Three Gorges	Energy	260 M	Investiment
2017*	February	Fosun	Finance	310 M	Investiment
2017*	February	China Three Gorges	Energy	260 M	Investiment
2016*	November	Fosun	Financeiro	180 M	Investiment
2015*	December	State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), China Reform Holdings	Energy	590 M	Investiment
2014*	January	Fosun	Finance	2030 M	Investiment
2014*	October	Fosun	Health	590 M	Investiment
2014*	December	Haitong Bank	Finance	470 M	Investiment
2013	March	Beijing Enterprises (BEHL)	Utilities	100 M	Investiment
2012	February	State Grid	Energy	510 M	Investiment
2012	December	China Three Gorges	Energy	470 M	Investiment
2011	December	China Three Gorges	Energy	3510	Investiment

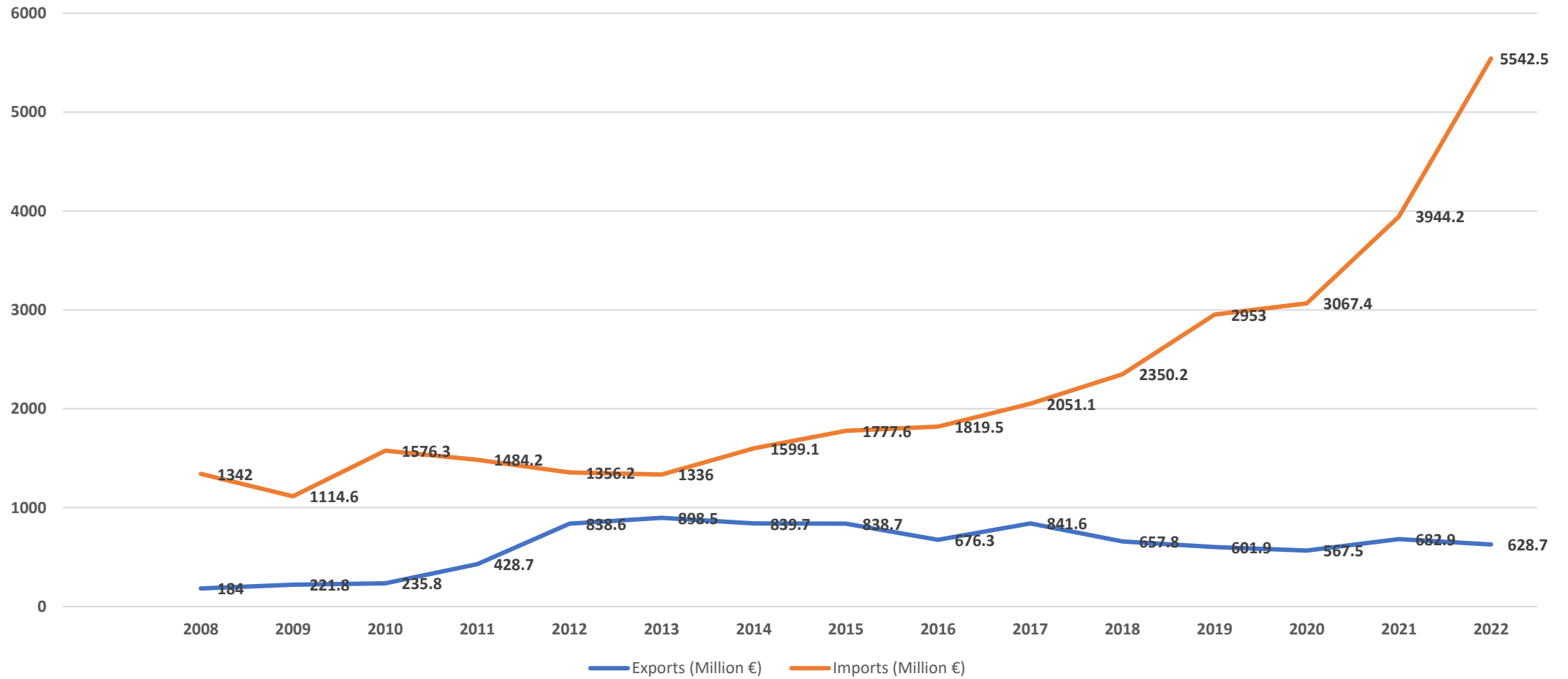
Fonte: China Global Investment Tracker

*BRI Projects



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Products Trade Portugal-China (2008-2022)





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Total number of projects and initiatives of bilateral and third party cooperation Portugal-China- Portuguese Speaking African Countries (PSACs)

	China-Portugal	China-PSACs	Portugal-PSACs	China-Portugal-PSACs	Total
Agriculture and agrobusiness	1	8	13	nd	22
Infrastructures	2	25	19	3	49
Energy	2	6	5		13
Scientific Research	19	na	na	2	21
Sea Cluster	1	5		1	7
Digital and TIC	3	9		1	13
Health	2	2			4
Total	30	55	37	7	129

Fonte: Fernanda Ilhéu, Enrique Galán, Joana Campos (2022)

We can conclude that the bilateral projects of China with the PSACs represent 42.6%, the projects of Portugal with PSACs 28.6% and the projects of China with Portugal 30%, the third party cooperation projects are not yet significant.



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Botlenecks

Mindset oriented for short-term business, buy and sell.

Negative perceptions on BRI

Difficulty in planning together development processes – Portugal –China; Government – Private; Big and SMES.

No existence of a task-force, central and regional governments and private companies

Not enough information on what kind of projects can be considered in BRI. How they can be financed? What criterias? How can Portuguese companies be involved in Third Markets Projects

No follow-up of meetings.



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On the coming 10 years BRI vision China will 'give priority for the 'small and beautiful' projects with;

- **Focus on projects with small investments,**
- **Quick impact,**
- **Sound economic, social and environmental benefits,**
- **Sustainable debt and greener,**
- **Cost-effective projects.**