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IN - PERSON EVENT

MAY

2026

13:00-14:15

📍 TownHall Europe, Sq. de Meeûs 5, 1000 Bruxelles

Publication Launch

Made in China, Powered by Europe

Mapping the EU's strategic leverage
over the People's Republic of China

ABOUT THE EVENT

An increasingly emboldened China has become a master at utilising strategic leverage to achieve policy aims and ideological goals. This ranges from making formal dialogues conditional, using import bans as tools to exert pressure and utilising FDIs for targeted political purposes.

The narrative put forward by the PRC's government is designed to convey the view that China's lead in cutting-edge technology is insurmountable and that its dependencies on the EU and its foreign partners are minimal at best.

In reality, the EU has strategic leverage in key niche sectors which are integral to the future of Chinese industry, including semiconductor chips, civil aviation, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, as well as robotics. However, these dependencies weaken every month and will likely be non-existent within the next decade.

This event will launch the Martens Centre's latest research paper dedicated to mapping the EU's influence and potential sway over China given its dependencies in these vital economic sectors. The discussion will also focus on the PRC's unfair competition practices, ongoing trade tensions between the two economic blocs and how the EU can best bolster its economic security toolkit.

PROGRAMME

12:15 Registration and Networking Lunch

13:00 Welcoming Remarks

13:05 Panel Discussion

13:50 Q & A

14:15 Closing of the event

SPEAKERS

Welcoming Remarks:

Tomi Huhtanen

Executive Director, Martens Centre

Discussants:

Sam Goodman

Policy Director, China Strategic Risk Institute

Dirk Gotink, MEP

Member of the European Parliament, EPP Group

Camille Boullenois

Associate Director, Rhodium Group

Moderator:

Dimitar Lilkov

Senior Research Officer, Martens Centre

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