

China, the European Union, and the Global South: China's presence in the Global South and the challenges for the European External Action

Foreign Policy Dialogues

March, 5th 2024

Jordi Maragall Room, CIDOB. Elisabets 12, 08001 Barcelona

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China's rapid development and growth since the 1978 Reform and Opening up policy have transformed the Asian country into a global power, with a presence and interests all over the world. Under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China aspires to develop a new international role as a great power, contesting the current US-led order at a time when its material conditions seem to correspond to a greater capacity to promote changes that are favourable to its interests. In this growing geopolitical competition between the two countries and a deepening distancing from Europe, China is looking south.

Specifically, this dialogue aims to discuss two key topics: first, to assess China's growing presence in the Mediterranean, Latin America and the Indo-Pacific and the challenges it poses for the European Union; and, second, how this presence complements or counters the interests of the EU in these regions to identify effective proposals and responses for the EU's interests and external action. Researchers, experts and government representatives will participate in this seminar to contribute to the political dialogue on the EU-China relationship and its ramifications in the Global South during a geopolitical context marked by rivalry, competition and the need for cooperation in the face of global challenges.

During the seminar, the participants will tackle China's current economic situation and the main diplomatic and geo-economic elements that China uses in its relations with the Global South through a regional approach, in line with the methodological approach adopted in the report on [China's presence in the Global South](#) recently published by CIDOB. Finally, the last panel will discuss the implications and responses adopted (or that could be adopted) by the EU.

- 10.00 **Welcome and objectives of the Foreign Policy Dialogue**
Blanca Garcés, Research Coordinator and Senior Research Fellow, CIDOB
Guillermo Anguera, Deputy Director General South and East Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation
- 10.10 **ECONOMIC OUTLOOK IN CHINA: Impact in geoeconomic tools**
Victor Burguete, Senior Research Fellow, CIDOB
Cristina Corral, Director of International Economy, Research Service, Banco Sabadell
Rubén González-Vicente, Professor, University of Birmingham
- 11.30 **Coffee break**
- 12.00 **REGIONAL APPROACHES TO CHINA'S PRESENCE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH**
Inés Arco, Researcher, CIDOB
Anna Ayuso, Senior Research Fellow, CIDOB
Moussa Bourekba, Research Fellow, CIDOB

Oscar Mateos, Professor in International Relations, Blanquerna – Universitat Ram3n Llull (URL); Associate Research Fellow, CIDOB

13.30 **Lunch break**

14.30 **IMPLICATIONS OF CHINA'S PRESENCE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: Responses from the European Union**

Claudio Feijoo, Professor and Jean Monnet Chair on Tech Diplomacy and Digital Sovereignty, Universidad Polit3cnica de Madrid (UPM)

Jacob Gunter, Lead Analyst Economy, MERICS

Monika Prusinowska, Maria Zambrano Scholar, Universitat de Barcelona (UB)

16.00 **Conclusions**

List of participants

Guillermo Anguera, Deputy Director General South and East Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation

In3s Arco, Researcher, CIDOB

Anna Ayuso, Senior Research Fellow, CIDOB

Joaqu3n Beltr3n, Professor, Universitat Aut3noma de Barcelona (UAB)

Moussa Bourekba, Research Fellow, CIDOB

Carles Bras3 i Broggi, Ram3n y Cajal Researcher, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)

Victor Burguete, Senior Research Fellow, CIDOB

Cristina Corral, Director of International Economy, Research Service, Banco Sabadell

Oriol Farr3s, Coordinator of CIDOB's International Yearbook

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Lu3s Pinheiro de Matos, Economist, Caixabank Research

Alejandra Pe3a, Associate Professor, Universitat Aut3noma de Barcelona (UAB)

Oscar Mateos, Profesor in International Relations, Blanquerna – Universitat Ram3n Llull (URL), Associate Research Fellow, CIDOB

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