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## Commission launches public consultation on EU-China trade relations in the twenty-first century

***The European Commission has today launched a public consultation designed to form part of its forthcoming major strategic review of trade and economic relations between the EU and China. The Commission will invite all interested parties to comment on how the EU should manage its relationship with China in the decade to come. The Commission's Communication on the EU's trade and economic relationship with China will be published in the last quarter of 2006.***

The rise of China as an economic power is a defining development of the early twenty-first century. It will bring opportunities and challenges both for China and for the rest of the world. China's growing market offers real new commercial opportunities for EU exporters and investors. China's own strong export capacity offers a new competitive challenge for EU producers and exporters.

Announcing the strategic review of the European Union's trade and economic relationship with China last week in a speech in Wolfsberg, Switzerland, EU Trade Commissioner Mandelson called China "the biggest single challenge of globalisation in the trade field". He argued that "Europe must get China right, as a threat, an opportunity and prospective global partner". Mandelson said the review would focus on "key challenges such as intellectual property, market access issues and investment opportunities" and would "spark a lively debate both within the EU and in China".

You can access the consultation via website <http://www.ec.europa.eu/trade> . A document summarising the replies to this consultation will be posted on the Europa website.

To read Commissioner Mandelson's Wolfsberg speech on EU trade policy goals in 2006 and beyond see RAPID [SPEECH/06/274](#) or visit: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/index_en.htm).