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1. Economic and Trade Friction Cases about China

1.1 China Says U.S. 301 Trade Probe Targeting 60 Economies Seriously Disrupts International Economic and Trade Order

On March 16, 2026, China voiced firm opposition to the United States' decision to launch a Section 301 investigation into 60 economies, including China, saying that it seriously disrupts the international economic and trade order.

The investigation, announced by the United States on March 12 local time in relation to what it claimed to be failures to prohibit the importation of goods produced via "forced labor," followed another Section 301 probe initiated just a day earlier over the so-called "overcapacity" issue, the Ministry of Commerce noted in a statement.

The statement said China has already lodged representations with the U.S. side amid ongoing bilateral economic and trade consultations in Paris.

"We urge the U.S. side to immediately correct its wrongdoings, meet China halfway, adhere to the principle of mutual respect and equal consultation, and find a solution to the problem through dialogue and consultation," the statement said.

A spokesperson from the ministry refuted the U.S. accusations, pointing out that the U.S. side has long manipulated the "forced labor" issue and imposed a series of trade restrictions on China based on fabricated allegations.

China, a founding member of the International Labour Organization, has ratified 28 international labor conventions and established a comprehensive system of labor laws and regulations to prevent and combat forced labor, the spokesperson said.

The United States has not yet ratified the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, thus rejecting binding international rules, while long manipulating the issue of "forced labor", the spokesperson noted.

The latest U.S. move to launch Section 301 investigations against China and other economies in an attempt to erect trade barriers is unilateral, arbitrary and discriminatory in nature, and is a typical act of protectionism, the spokesperson said.

"This is a mistake on top of another, which severely undermines the security and stability of global industrial and supply chains and seriously disrupts the international economic and trade order," the spokesperson added.

China will closely follow the investigation's progress and reserves the right to take all necessary measures to resolutely safeguard its legitimate rights and interests, the spokesperson said.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

1.2 China Imposes Anti-Dumping Duties on Imports of Halogenated Butyl Rubber Originating in Japan, Canada

China will impose anti-dumping duties on imports of halogenated butyl rubber originating in Japan and Canada after a final ruling found that the products were dumped, causing material injury to the domestic industry, the Ministry of Commerce said on March 13, 2026.

The anti-dumping measures will take effect on March 14, 2026, and remain in place for five years, according to a statement released by the ministry.

The anti-dumping duty rate for Japan Butyl Co., Ltd. will be 15 percent, while other Japanese companies will be subject to a rate of 30.1 percent. ARLANXEO Canada Inc. and other Canadian companies will face a rate of 13.8 percent, according to the statement.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

2. China Policies/Regulations

2.1 China Releases Full Text of Government Work Report

The government work report, delivered by Premier Li Qiang, was approved on March 12, 2026 at the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress.

The report comprises four parts:

I. A Review of Our Work in 2025

II. Main Objectives and Major Tasks for the 15th Five-Year Plan Period

III. Overall Requirements and Policy Orientations for Economic and Social Development in 2026

IV. Major Tasks for 2026

The report proposes the main targets for development in 2026 as follows:

- GDP growth of 4.5-5 percent, while striving for better in practice
- surveyed urban unemployment rate of around 5.5 percent
- over 12 million new urban jobs
- CPI increase of around 2 percent
- personal income growth in step with economic growth
- a basic equilibrium in the balance of payments
- grain output of around 700 million metric tons
- a reduction of around 3.8 percent in carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

2.2 China Releases Reports on Budgets, National Economic and Social Development Plans

Two reports approved on March 12, 2026 at the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress were released on March 15, 2026.

The report on the implementation of the 2025 plan for national economic and social development and on the 2026 draft plan for national economic and social development has three parts:

- I. Implementation of the 2025 Plan for National Economic and Social Development;
- II. Overall Requirements, Main Objectives, and Policy Orientations for Economic and Social Development in 2026;
- III. Major Tasks for Economic and Social Development in 2026.

The report on the execution of the central and local budgets for 2025 and on the draft central and local budgets for 2026 has three parts:

- I. Execution of the 2025 Central and Local Budgets;
- II. Draft Central and Local Budgets for 2026;
- III. Fiscal Reform and Development in 2026.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

2.3 China to Expand Cross-Customs Return Policy for E-commerce Exports

China's General Administration of Customs (GAC) has announced a new policy to expand a cross-customs-district return model for retail export goods from cross-border e-commerce.

Starting April 1, 2026, cross-border e-commerce retail export goods returned from overseas will no longer be required to go back to the original customs office through which they were exported.

Instead, companies may choose any customs port across the country to handle the return entry procedures, which will provide greater flexibility for businesses.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

2.4 China Expands Pilot Cities for Cross-Border Trade Facilitation Campaign in 2026

China will expand its pilot cities for a cross-border trade facilitation campaign to 45 in 2026, up from 25 in 2025, the General Administration of Customs (GAC) said on March 16, 2026.

The six-month campaign was jointly launched by the GAC and 23 other departments.

Sun Meijun, head of the GAC, announced at a deployment meeting that 20 cities have been newly added to the pilot list, including Hohhot, Changchun, Suzhou, Jinhua, Quanzhou, Nanchang, Yantai, Wuhan, Changsha, Zhuhai, Nanning, Kunming and Xi'an.

The campaign will see a series of new measures rolled out, which focus on upgrading goods trade, expanding services trade, and promoting digital and green trade.

The measures include innovations in customs clearance supervision, optimized services for new forms of foreign trade, improved cross-border logistics efficiency, smarter port construction, enhanced alignment with international standards, and better support for enterprises.

Since 2018, the GAC has organized annual campaigns to enhance cross-border trade, implementing a total of 144 measures by 2025, with 110 of these measures being adopted nationwide.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

2.5 China Reveals New Batch of Foreign-Invested Projects

China has unveiled a new list of 13 major foreign-funded projects with a planned investment of 13.4 billion U.S. dollars, the country's top economic planner said on March 18, 2026.

The new batch of projects is mainly in the manufacturing sector, including electronics, chemicals, automobiles and electrical machinery, aiming to accelerate the development of industrial clusters, according to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

Amid efforts to strengthen support for the service sector and promote deeper integration between modern services and advanced manufacturing, logistics projects have been included on the list for the first time, while continued support will be given to R&D center projects in sectors such as biomedicine.

Investment sources for these projects are diversifying, with companies from Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and Türkiye involved, the NDRC noted.

China will improve follow-up services for these projects, step up support for foreign-invested enterprises, and address their concerns and practical difficulties, an NDRC official said.

So far, such major foreign-funded projects have seen cumulative investment reach 108 billion U.S. dollars, the NDRC data showed.

China has intensified efforts to promote foreign investment. Earlier in February, a new edition of the Catalog of Encouraged Industries for

Foreign Investment came into effect, with the goal of channeling more foreign investment toward advanced manufacturing, modern services, high technology, energy conservation and environmental protection.

According to this year's government work report, the country pledges to deepen reform of the institutional framework for promoting foreign investment in 2026, with measures to encourage foreign-funded enterprises to reinvest in the country and expand production locally.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

2.6 China Updates Regulations on Registration of Overseas Manufacturers Exporting Food to China

China will implement new regulations on the registration of overseas manufacturers exporting food to China, starting from June this year, the General Administration of Customs (GAC) has announced.

The GAC will determine the list of food imports requiring such registration, the list of food imports not subject to automatic renewal of registration, and the scope of overseas food storage enterprises that should register, according to the updated regulations.

These decisions will be made based on an assessment of raw material sources, production and processing techniques, food safety records, target consumer groups and consumption methods, and in line with international practices.

The registration will be valid for 5 years and will be automatically renewed for another 5 years if no rules are breached.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

2.7 Chinese Premier Signs Decree to Revise Regulations on Registration Administration of Social Organizations

Chinese Premier Li Qiang has signed a State Council decree to announce a decision revising the regulations on the registration administration of social organizations.

The decision includes measures that clarify the rules regarding the merger and termination of industry associations and chambers of commerce, add provisions for court-appointed liquidation in debt handling during deregistration, and specify procedures for deregistration when organizations are unable to handle it independently.

The decision takes effect on March 17, 2026. In accordance with this decision, the regulations shall be revised accordingly, with the sequence of articles adjusted, and re-promulgated. The revised regulations, published on March 17, 2026, consist of seven chapters and 37 articles.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

2.8 China Issues Guidelines to Enhance Professional Social Work Workforce

China's central authorities have issued a set of guidelines to strengthen the development of the professional social work workforce, as part of broader efforts to improve public services and social governance.

According to the guidelines, China aims to achieve a more balanced structure and distribution of social work professionals and significantly enhance their level of professionalization and capabilities within about five years.

The country also seeks to expand the pool of high-level talent and steadily increase the number of professional social work positions.

Tasks and standards for social work-related professions across various fields, such as community governance, rural governance, youth affairs, social assistance, elderly care, and child welfare, will be clarified.

Efforts will be made to refine the occupational classification in social work services and create new areas for employment growth.

The guidelines also emphasize strengthening training for existing social work professionals to enhance their professional competence, as well as improving the development of social work-related disciplines and programs in higher education institutions.

The document was jointly issued by the General Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

3. China Economic and Trade Information

3.1 Xi Calls for Strengthening Cooperation with Turkmenistan in Natural Gas, Trade, Non-Resource Fields

China and Turkmenistan should expand the scale of cooperation in the natural gas sector, and elevate trade and investment levels, Chinese President Xi Jinping said in Beijing on March 18, 2026.

Xi made the remarks when meeting with National Leader of the Turkmen People and Chairman of the Halk Maslahaty of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, adding that the two sides should expand cooperation in non-resource fields, including connectivity, agriculture, artificial intelligence, digital economy and clean energy.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

3.2 China to Leverage Sino-U.S. Economic Consultation Mechanism to Enhance Communication

China and the United States have agreed to continue making good use of their economic and trade consultation mechanism to strengthen dialogue and communication, the Ministry of Commerce said on March 19, 2026.

In response to a question regarding the recent China-U.S. economic and trade talks in Paris, the ministry spokesperson He Yongqian said both sides engaged in candid, in-depth and constructive consultations on issues of mutual interest, including tariff arrangements, promoting bilateral trade and investment, and maintaining existing consensus from earlier consultations.

"Some new points of consensus were reached, and both sides agreed to maintain consultations," He said at a regular press conference.

The two parties also agreed to explore the establishment of working mechanisms to expand economic and trade cooperation, continue to make good use of the China-U.S. economic and trade consultation mechanism, strengthen dialogue and communication, properly manage differences, and expand practical cooperation to advance the sustained and steady growth of bilateral economic and trade relations, the spokesperson said.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

3.3 China Firmly Opposes EU's Illicit Unilateral Sanctions Against Chinese Entities

China firmly opposes the European Union (EU)'s illicit unilateral sanctions against Chinese entities and urges the EU to correct its wrong practices and work with China in a responsible and constructive manner to uphold peace, stability and prosperity in cyberspace, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said on March 17, 2026.

Lin made the remarks at a regular news briefing when responding to a question on the EU on March 16, 2026 imposing sanctions against two China-based and one Iranian companies on the excuse of cyberattacks against EU member states.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

3.4 China Raises Three Proposals to Boost Energy Cooperation in Asia-Pacific Region

China has put forward three proposals regarding high-quality universal energy access, artificial intelligence (AI) plus energy and coordinated energy governance to promote energy cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

The proposals were raised at the 71st Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Energy Working Group meeting, held from March 18 to 19 in Nanchang, east China's Jiangxi Province.

The proposals call for inclusive development to extend energy benefits to all through regional collaboration and diversified technologies. They advocate for accelerated innovation to integrate AI and energy through aligned strategies and standards. Additionally, they emphasize strengthened coordination to enhance the effectiveness, transparency and resilience of energy governance through policy dialogue and information sharing.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

3.5 China, France pledge to deepen economic, financial cooperation

On March 16, 2026, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng and French Finance Minister Roland Lescure held in-depth discussions in Paris on recent

developments in China-France economic and financial cooperation and other issues of common concern.

He, the Chinese lead person of the China-France High-Level Economic and Financial Dialogue, said China is ready to work with France to implement the important consensus reached by Chinese President Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron. He called for further deepening of exchanges and cooperation in economic and financial fields, and for promoting the steady and sustained development of bilateral economic relations.

Lescure, France's lead person of the dialogue, said France attaches great importance to cooperation with China and is willing to work with the Chinese side to advance pragmatic cooperation in economic and financial fields and achieve greater progress.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

3.6 China Shuts Down Over 5,600 Non-Compliant Financial Institutions Since 2024

Over 5,600 non-compliant financial institutions in China have been shut down since 2024, official data showed on March 19, 2026.

The number of six categories of local financial organizations in China fell 26 percent year on year by the end of December 2025, down 55 percent from its historical peak, according to the National Financial Regulatory Administration.

The six categories include micro-lending companies, financing guarantee companies, pawnshops, financial leasing companies, commercial factoring companies, and local asset management companies.

China has been intensifying efforts to advance targeted rectification of the six types of local financial organizations since 2024, eliminating non-compliant institutions that were "out of contact," operating as "shell

companies," or seriously violating regulations, while strictly addressing market irregularities.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

3.7 S. Korean Inter-Agency Delegation Visits China to Study Autonomous Driving

South Korea sent a joint policy research team of officials from eight government agencies to Beijing on March 18 for a three-day visit to study China's policies and real-world applications in autonomous driving and AI-related technologies, Yonhap News Agency reported on March 18, 2026.

The delegation consists of about 20 officials from relevant ministries and agencies overseeing autonomous driving and related AI technologies, according to Yonhap.

During the three-day visit, the team will meet with Chinese officials to learn about policy support, regulatory frameworks and technological development in future mobility and autonomous driving.

The delegation will also inspect the operation of Beijing's autonomous driving demonstration zone and visit major Chinese autonomous driving companies.

The South Korean government hopes to identify policy measures for domestic adoption to support its goal of commercializing fully autonomous vehicles and accelerating the development of autonomous driving pilot cities, Yonhap reported.

(Edited from Xinhua.)

3.8 China to Further Address Antitrust and Market Fairness in 2026

China will step up antitrust enforcement in 2026 to break down local protectionism and market fragmentation, the country's market regulator said on March 19, 2026.

At the 2026 national antitrust work conference held in Xiamen, Fujian province, the State Administration for Market Regulation said this year's priorities include deepening fair competition governance, regulating market order, and addressing cutthroat competition.

The country will also strengthen oversight of government behavior, targeting the misuse of administrative power to restrict competition, and expand international cooperation while refining regulatory mechanisms to improve enforcement efficiency, SAMR said.

The regulator added that in 2025, regulators concluded 22 monopoly cases and reviewed 706 merger filings. The regulator also opened 96 investigations into abuses of administrative power that excluded or restricted competition, aiming to curb local governments' intervention in markets.

(Edited from China Daily.)



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