



26.1.2023

MISSION REPORT

following the INTA committee mission to Taipei, from 17 to 22 December 2022

Committee on International Trade

Members of the mission:

Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou	(PPE) (Leader of the mission)
Jörgen Warborn	(PPE)
Kathleen Van Brempt	(S&D)
Marie-Pierre Vedrenne	(Renew)
Karin Karlsbro	(Renew)
Michiel Hoogeveen	(ECR)
Reinhard Bütikofer	(Verts/ALE)

Introduction

A seven Member delegation of the INTA Committee visited Taipei from 17 to 22 December 2022 in order to get first-hand information on the position of Taiwan (Republic of China) on bilateral trade and investment relations. This was the third official European Parliament (EP) visit to Taiwan, after the INGE Committee visit in 2021 and the visit of Vice-President Beer in July 2022.

The delegation met with high-level representatives of the government, including President Ing-wen Tsai, Premier of the Executive Yuan (Prime Minister) Tseng-chang Su, Foreign Minister Joseph Jaushie Wu, Minister of Economic Affairs Mei-hua Wang, Minister of the National Development Council Ming-hsin Kung, deputy Minister of Economic affairs Chern-Chyi Chen and deputy Trade Representative Jen-ni Yang. A meeting took place as well with Eric Chu, the Chairman of the opposition party Kuomintang.

The delegation also engaged with the President of the Legislative Yuan (Taiwanese Parliament) Si-Kun You and several other Members of Parliament from different political groups.

In addition, meetings were held with European business representatives, non-governmental organisations and other civil society representatives.

All these contacts allowed the delegation to understand better the different perspectives and concerns, and to clarify matters in direct personal interaction.

Main issues

All interlocutors stressed the significance of the EU-Taiwan bilateral relations and the support for an international rules-based order. The visit explored how to build further on the already important existing trading relationship (in 2021 Taiwan was EU's 12th trading partner in goods and the EU was the first investor in Taiwan, investing more than the United States and Japan combined), in particular as regards a possible Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) and a resilient supply chain agreement that the EP has been calling for.

The delegation indicated that the modernisation of the EU-Taiwan trade dialogue with the first Trade and Investment Dialogue that was held in June 2022 led by Minister of Economic Affairs Mei-hua Wang and DG Trade Director-General Sabine Weyand was a good step forward, as it elevates cooperation also on strategic items linked to trade and technology in critical areas (like semiconductors, supply chains).

It was underlined the EP wants to go further. As mentioned in its most recent Resolution on Taiwan of September 2022, the EP supports enhancing the EU's partnership with Taiwan so as to promote common values and principles, including by pursuing a resilient supply chain agreement and a bilateral investment agreement (BIA). Taiwan thanked the EP for its support for the BIA. Such agreements would be important for the EU and Taiwan, not just because of the concrete economic benefits they bring but also as they can help stabilise the rules-based trading system, which is increasingly suffering from an increase of protectionism and supply chain disruptions, an inward-looking focus of many of our trade partners and a weaponisation of trade. Such agreements would be also important in a wider geo-political context. The Russian war against Ukraine demonstrates the need for the EU to work more closely with like-minded

partners around the world, such as Taiwan. Taiwan was also thanked for its support to Ukraine in the face of Russia's brutal and unjustified war of aggression.

The delegation highlighted the importance of Taiwan for the EU, because EU and Taiwan share similar values (democracy, rule of law), due to its location (40% of EU foreign trade passes through South China Sea and 90% of world largest ships by tonnage pass through the Taiwan Strait) and its critical role in global high-tech supply chains (which was discussed not only with political leaders, but also during a dedicated meeting in Shinchu City with the founder and CEO of Macronix, a world top 10 semiconductors producer).

A number of important political messages were passed regarding trade, inviting Taiwan to increase its investment into the EU (less than 1% goes to EU currently) and the need to resolve some key trade irritants, such as local content requirements in the off shore wind sector and SPS barriers for EU agri-food exporters that are not in line with Taiwan's WTO commitments. These problems were confirmed in a meeting with the European Chamber of Commerce. The Taiwanese side reassured that progress is being made towards a resolution of the local content requirements.

The delegation also reiterated that the EU wishes to see a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. It was emphasized that the use or threat of force and any economic coercion against Taiwan is unacceptable and that it is important to maintain the status quo, whereby the 'One China' policy is respected. The Taiwanese political leaders were thanked for their measured and responsible reaction shown in response to the Peoples Republic of China's (PRC) military intimidation last summer. Taiwanese leaders asked for increased European and international support against the Chinese coercion.

The discussions saw a very good and constructive engagement on bilateral and multilateral trade relations and many related topics such as the impact of China's aggression and coercion in the wider Indo-Pacific region, sustainable trade, the negotiations for a US-Taiwan 21st century agreement, the EU trade autonomous measures (procurement, anti-coercion, foreign subsidies), environment, supply chains, critical raw materials and energy.

As regards semiconductors, Taiwanese interlocutors explained how they have set up a whole ecosystem around this sector, which many of them believed could not be replicated elsewhere arguing that Taiwan has the ideal environment for this sector with a highly educated, flexible and hard working population, research and development, the necessary water supplies and energy (semiconductors production requires very high consumption of water and electricity). The government is in favour of stepping out of nuclear energy production but the opposition underlined the need to keep this source because they believed this would lead to a shortage of electricity. The announced investment by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) in Arizona was considered to be mainly politically motivated.

The lunch meeting with the Taiwanese NGO stakeholders and civil society (environment, trade unions, defenders of migrant workers and human rights) showed that they had a good dialogue with the Taiwanese government.

The INTA Delegation received wide attention in the Taiwanese press (TV, major newspapers and radio channels).

Conclusions and follow-up

The high-level nature of the meetings and the quality of exchanges confirmed the importance Taiwan attaches to the strengthening of their strategic relationship with the EU and most concretely to ambitious and mutually beneficial comprehensive trade and investment relations.

The ad hoc delegation was of great value for the INTA Committee, which will continue to scrutinise any relevant developments in bilateral trade and economic relations.

Annex: Final programme

**Committee on International Trade
Delegation to Taipei, Taiwan (Republic of China)**

19 – 21 December 2022

PROGRAMME

Monday 19 December Taipei

- 09:00 – 10:30** Briefing with Filip GRZEGORZEWSKI, Head of European Economic and Trade Office (EETO) in Taiwan and EU Member States Heads of Representation Offices
- 11:00 – 12:00** Meeting with Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs Chern-Chyi CHEN
- 12:30 – 14:30** Lunch meeting with representatives of NGOs
- 16:00 – 17:00** Meeting with Premier Tseng-chang SU
- 18:30** Dinner hosted by Foreign Minister Joseph Jaushieh WU

Tuesday 20 December Taipei

- 09:30 – 10:30** Meeting with President Ing-wen TSAI
- 11:00 – 11:50** Meeting with Chairman of the Kuomintang Eric CHU
- 12:15 – 14:30** Working Lunch hosted by President of Legislative Yuan Si-Kun YOU
- 15:00 – 16:00** Meeting with Deputy Trade Representative Jen-ni YANG
- 16:30 – 17:15** Meeting with European Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan

Wednesday 21 December Taipei/Hsinchu City/Taipei

09:45 – 11:45 Meeting with Miin WU, CEO Macronix International

12:15 – 13:30 Lunch

15:00 – 16:00 Press conference

17:30 – 18:15 Meeting with National Development Council, Minister Ming-hsin KUNG

18:15 Official end of INTA visit

Press release

16-12-2022 - 10:06
20221212IPR64525



European Parliament trade delegation in Taiwan next week

A delegation of the International Trade Committee visits Taiwan between 19 and 21 December to discuss EU-Taiwan trade and investment relations.

The seven-member delegation, led by [Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou](#) (EPP, Greece), will meet President Ing-wen Tsai and Premier Tseng-chang Su, as well as the President of Legislative Yuan (assembly), Shyi-kun Yu. They will also hold talks with Foreign Minister Joseph Jaushieh Wu, Economic Minister Mei-Hua Wang and the Trade Representative of Taiwan, Minister John Deng.

The MEPs will also discuss with representatives of semiconductor sector, the European Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Technology Research Institute. They will meet trade unions and environment, women's rights and consumer organisations.

Members of the delegation

[Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou](#) (EPP, Greece)

[Jörgen Warborn](#) (EPP, Sweden)

[Kathleen Van Brempt](#) (S&D, Belgium)

[Marie-Pierre Vedrenne](#) (Renew, France)

[Karin Karlsbro](#) (Renew, Sweden)

[Michiel Hoogeveen](#) (ECR, Netherlands)

[Reinhard Bütikofer](#) (Greens/EFA, Germany), Chair of the [EP Delegation For Relations With China](#)

Quote

"This official visit by the European Parliament is a reflection of the important role that Taiwan can play in some of the EU's long-term priorities. Right now, the EU continues to pursue its [updated Indo-Pacific Strategy](#) and is working to enforce the resilience of our supply chains for

EN

Press Service, Directorate General for Communication
European Parliament - Spokesperson: Jaume Duch Guillot
Press switchboard number (32-2) 28 33000

1 | 2

key products like semiconductors. As members of the Committee on International Trade, we want to focus on how we can build on our existing trading relationship and to discuss areas where we think we can boost investments across our respective jurisdictions,” said Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou ahead of the visit.

Background

The Committee on International Trade is the second EP committee that visits Taiwan following [last year's visit](#) by the [Special Committee on Foreign Interference](#).

Parliament has been repeatedly calling for closer relations with Taiwan, most recently in a [resolution](#) in September 2022.

Trade between the EU and Taiwan has [doubled](#) in the past decade and in 2021, Taiwan was the 12th trading partner of the EU. Since 2002, Taiwan has been a member of the World Trade Organisation.

Further information

[Committee on International Trade](#)

[Discussion in Committee on EU-Taiwan trade and investment relations \(01.12.2022, 9:00-10:00\)](#)

[Hearing on EU-Taiwan trade relations \(19.02.2019\)](#)

[Press release: EU-Taiwan relations: MEPs push for stronger partnership \(21.10.2021\)](#)

Contacts

Eszter BALÁZS

Press Officer

☎ (+32) 2 28 42373 (BXL)

☎ (+32) 470 88 08 77

✉ eszter.balazs@europarl.europa.eu

✉ inta-press@europarl.europa.eu

🐦 [@EP_Trade](https://twitter.com/EP_Trade)
