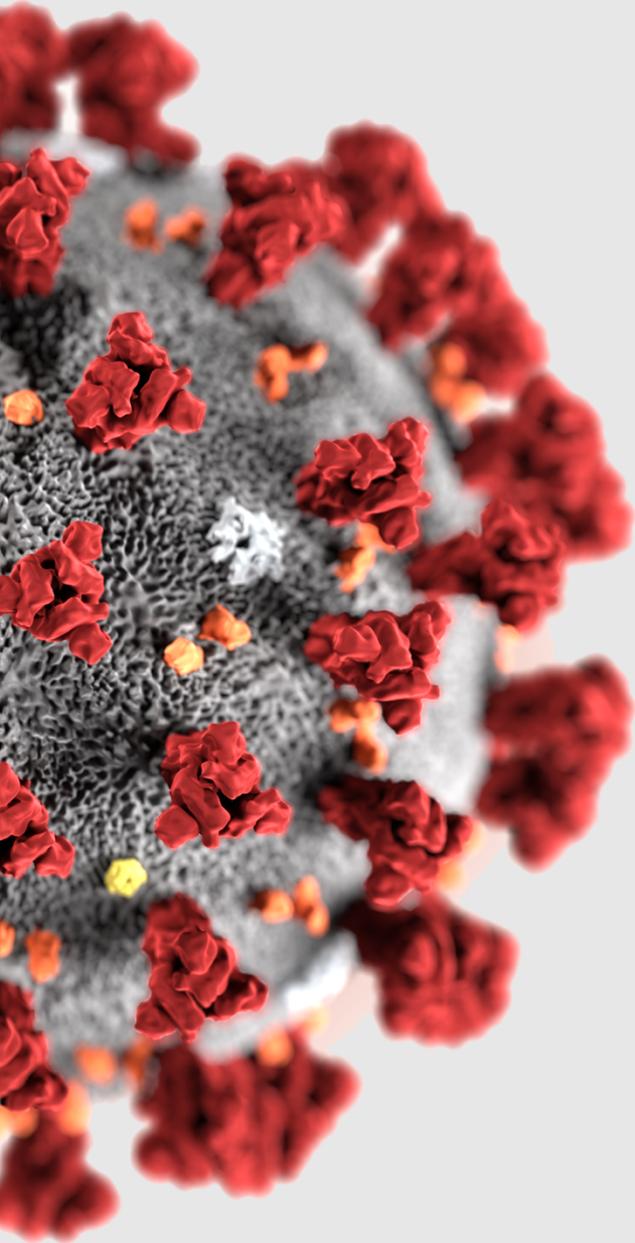




From the outset of the COVID-19 outbreak, the European Chamber has been encouraging and facilitating donations and support to China and the EU, maintaining frequent, direct communication with government, organising numerous webinars, and providing vital policy information to members and the public.

European Chamber: COVID-19 Support and Advocacy



I. COVID-19 Outbreak in China: Encouraging and Facilitating

Donations and Support

The State Council announced the extension of the Chinese New Year Holiday in an effort to contain the virus outbreak by reducing the travel of individuals. During the extended holiday period, the European Chamber began facilitating donations of equipment and expertise from its member companies, and provided support to the Chinese government all across China.

- 24th January: Letter sent to the National Health Commission (NHC) to express appreciation for its efforts in the fight against COVID-19, and express the Chamber's willingness to support epidemic prevention measures.
- Messages were sent to European Chamber members and other European Chambers around the world, asking for medical supplies to be urgently sent to China.
- A dedicated Chamber staff member was designated to coordinate the needs of local governments for medical supplies with overseas suppliers, and to help solve customs issues.
- 27th January: Information on member companies' donations was collated upon request from the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM).

Result: The donation by foreign-invested enterprises of hundreds of millions of euros in cash or material help to fight the virus in China in the initial phase was recognised and promoted by MOFCOM.

II. Epidemic Prevention and Control, and Work Resumption

The Chamber used surveys and interviews to understand the key issues being faced by member companies. The Chamber then set about providing recommendations and solutions, facilitating direct access for members to raise their challenges with government officials, and continually providing policy updates.

- 4th February: COVID-19-related policy updates from central and local governments were posted on the Chamber's website, which has been continually updated.

Impact: Relevant policy updates on COVID-19, from both central and local governments, helped our members map out their operations. So far, while some urgent issues have been resolved, others remain and new challenges have emerged.

- 7th February: A dedicated web page, 'Focus on COVID-19', was launched, providing member companies with information on policies, best practices and donation information.
- 14th February: Feedback from more than 100 companies on the impact of COVID-19 on business was submitted to the MOFCOM, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT). There has been continual follow-up to identify solutions.

Result: A hotline mechanism was established by the NDRC and MOFCOM, to help the Chamber and our members resume work and production in a timely manner.

- 27th February: The Chamber released a report on a COVID-19 survey that was jointly conducted with the German Chamber of Commerce, with nearly 600 respondents.

Result: The report was shared with the MOFCOM and the CCPIT to clearly outline the practical difficulties being faced and the economic impact, as well as to state recommendations and work towards finding solutions.

III. Stabilising China's Economy, Dealing with the Outbreak in Europe

Webinars with Central and Local Governments

On 18th February, the MOFCOM released the Notice on Keeping Foreign Trade, Foreign Investment Stable and Stimulating Consumption in response to the COVID-19 epidemic.

When inspecting the coordination mechanisms of foreign trade and investment on 13th March, Premier Li Keqiang stressed that "the more difficult it is, the more efforts China will make to expand reform and opening-up".

On the same day, a conference call with the MOFCOM, joined by multiple departments, was organised by the Chamber to address members' questions and understand latest policies. As follow up, a series of webinars with local authorities took place.

- 26th February: Webinar hosted with the **CCPIT** on force majeure certificates.
- 28th February: Hosted webinar with **Chinese Ambassador** to the EU, Zhang Ming, on COVID-19's impact on European business in China
- 28th February: Private call from **Vice Minister of MOFCOM** Wang Shouwen to President Jörg Wuttke to express appreciation for the efforts made by both EU companies and the European Chamber in the fight against COVID-19.
- 10th March: Dialogue with **Shanghai Vice Mayor** on work resumption.
- 13th March: Conference call with **Vice Minister of MOFCOM** Wang Shouwen, which was joined by multiple departments, on the impact of COVID-19 on FIEs.
- 17th March: Webinar dialogue with the **Shanghai Municipal Government** on supportive policies for business.
- 24th March: Webinar dialogue with **Tianjin Vice Mayor** and multiple departments of the Tianjin Municipal Government.
- 2nd April: Webinar dialogue with **Nanjing Municipal Government** on incentive policies for businesses.
- 9th April: Webinar dialogue with **Chongqing Municipal Government** on work resumption and investment promotion.
- 16th April: Webinar dialogue with **Shandong Provincial Government** on supportive policies for business.

Impact: Webinars at both the central and local levels guided our members through various supporting policies related to the resumption of business.

Webinars with International Organisations and EU Officials

The Chamber also hosted international organisations like World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), as well as EU officials, to share their views via webinars on how to deal with the crisis through joint efforts.

- 19th February: Webinar with **EU Ambassador to China** HE Nicolas Chapuis.
- 23rd March: Webinar with the **WHO** and the **World Bank** on key emerging challenges, and how governments and businesses should collaboratively respond to the global crisis.
- 9th April: Webinar with **EU Ambassador to China** HE Nicolas Chapuis on the EU's response to COVID-19.
- 30th April: Webinar with the **AIIB** on its COVID-19 Crisis Recovery Facility (CRF).
- 6th May: **VIP Webinar Series** launched, with 22 of the world's most renowned academics, China experts, business leaders, politicians and policy makers discussing the world's most pressing issues.
- 11th May: Webinar with **EU Ambassador to China** HE Nicolas Chapuis and EU Member States' Consuls General in Shanghai.

Facilitating Donations to Europe and Conveying Positive Messages on Social Media

As the crisis shifted to Europe, the Chamber began calling for donations that had previously flooded from Europe into China to go in the opposite direction. A social media campaign was also launched to emphasise the good work being done to combat COVID-19, and to counter some of the increasingly negative rhetoric that had begun to gather pace.

- 26th March: Urgent call sent for medical equipment donations to be sent to Europe.
- 8th April: The National Medical Products Administration (NMPA)-approved Chinese medical equipment suppliers' lists were shared with members.
- 7th April: #WeAreInThisTogether campaign launched on social media, posting photos depicting solidarity between Chinese and Europeans.
- 29th April: Donated 10,000 surgical masks to three medical institutions in Spain and Italy

Impact: Direct donations by the Chamber, and the facilitation of donations by others to the EU, helped to balance some of the more negative stories that had started to emerge, and kept the spotlight focussed on the need to take positive, collective action.

Direct Communication with Central Government to Voice Concerns from Member Companies

Travel restrictions were tightened around the world, and China imposed a ban on the return of foreign nationals to China. Limitations placed on certain exports were also impeding the provision of vital equipment to countries in Europe. The Chamber sought ways to bring back key employees and their families to China, in order to get companies fully operational, find

solutions to industries being impacted by supply chain disruptions and get critically-needed supplies moving again.

- 9th April: A letter was sent to Foreign Affairs Minister Wang Yi, requesting his assistance to ease the recently imposed entry restrictions to China for foreign nationals.

Result: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) responded, saying that a fast track system would be established by the MFA to facilitate the return of foreign nationals to work in China.

- 17th April: Letters sent to the MOFCOM to address issues on the export of medical devices, recommend an extension of the grace period for the transition to new standards in the automotive industry, and to work towards easing entry restrictions placed on foreign nationals.
- 17th April: Letter sent to China's senior leadership to address issues on the export of medical devices, recommend an extension of the grace period for the transition to new standards in the automotive industry, and to work towards easing entry restrictions placed on foreign nationals.

Results:

- On 26th April, the MOFCOM, the General Administration of Custom (GACC), and the State Administration of Market Regulation (SAMR) jointly published Announcement 12, to facilitate the export of medical devices urgently needed in the EU.
- On 28th April, the NDRC, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), the Ministry of Public Security (MPS), the Ministry of Finance (MOF), the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), the Ministry of Transportation (MOT), the MOFCOM, the People's Bank of China (PBoC), the State Taxation Administration (STA) and the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) jointly published the *Notice on Several Measures to Stabilise and Expand the Automotive Consumption*, in which the grace period for the GUO VI emissions standards has been extended to 1st January 2021.

Providing Valuable Information to Members and the Public During the Travel Ban

Since the closure of its borders to foreign nationals on 28th March, the European Chamber has advocated strongly for their gradual re-opening—while ensuring that the strictest health and safety standards are adhered to—to enable European company employees and their families to get back to China and participate in getting China's economy back on its feet.

- 14th April: Launched a webpage providing the travel and quarantine policy updates for various cities in China.
- 15th May: Supported individuals to obtain visas, for use in combination with chartered flights back to China.
- 22nd May: Met with Shanghai Foreign Affairs Office (FAO) to clarify 'normal' and 'fast-track' channels for foreign nationals returning to Shanghai.

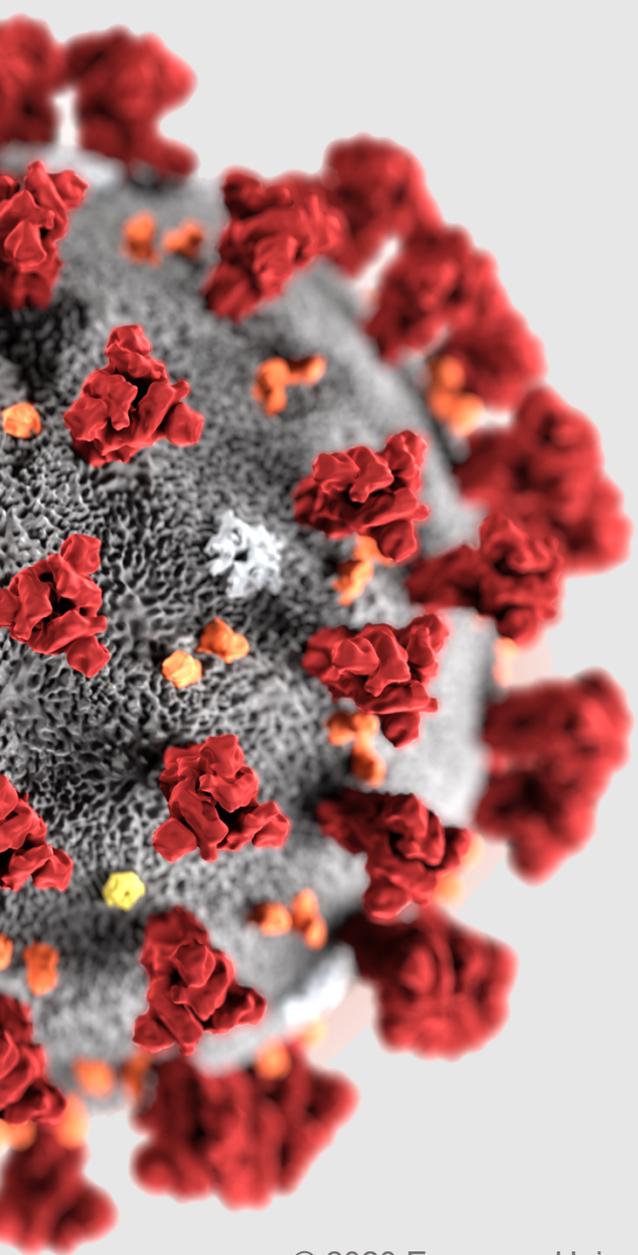
- 22nd May: Webinar with Shenzhen Public Security Bureau on entry policies for foreign nationals.

IV. Active Media Engagement

From the beginning of the outbreak, the Chamber's advocacy work has been supplemented by strong media engagement. Chamber spokespeople have been extremely active, providing updates on the current situation, expressing the challenges faced by European businesses in China and ensuring that accurate information is shaping the overall media narrative.

By mid-May, the Chamber was quoted on the topic of COVID-19 in 316 articles by international media and 100 articles by domestic media. Among the top-5 media outlets, the Chamber was mentioned in seven *Bloomberg* articles, three *Financial Times* articles, seven *New York Times* articles, five *Reuters* articles and five *Wall Street Journal* articles. Some of the highlights are below:

- 4th February: Media roundtable held in Brussels during the EU Tour, raising concerns about the implications of COVID-19 on Chamber members.
- 11th February: President Jörg Wuttke's quote selected as *New York Times' Quotation of the Day*.
- 11th February: *CNBC* live interview – COVID-19 adds uncertainty to the upcoming EU-China Summit and the CAI negotiations.
- 18th February: Online media roundtable with key international media. *Reuters* highlighted the potential shortage of global drug supplies caused by COVID-19.
- 19th February: Media roundtable in Shanghai with local media to address the economic impact of the coronavirus on European business.
- 26th February: Vice President Jens Eskeland joined N-TV's interview on the disruption of supply chains brought by COVID-19.
- 24th March: *CGTN Live* interview: Vice President Charlotte Roule noted that companies cannot rely on the recovery of just one economy due to the existence of global supply chains.
- 8th April: *CNBC* interview with Jörg Wuttke on the difficulties faced by European companies trying to ship PPE made in China to Europe.
- 13th April: Cross-chapter online media roundtable attended by key domestic and international media, and reported on by *Reuters*, *New York Times*, *CGTN* and *Financial Times*.



Contact Membership Team

Beijing: +86 (10) 6462 2066 – 58

Nanjing: +86 (25) 8362 7330

Shanghai: +86 (21) 6385 2023 – 113

Shenyang: +86 (24) 3198 4229

South China: +86 (20) 3801 1307

Southwest: +86 (28) 8527 6517

Tianjin: +86 (22) 5830 7608

For inquiries, please contact
euccc@european-chamber.com.cn

Visit Official Website:

www.european-chamber.com.cn



European Chamber
中国欧盟商会



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
OF THE EUROPEAN CHAMBER
2000-2020