STUDY NOTES · BASIC CONCEPT

EU–China Tensions Rise: Sanctions Row Over Russia Intensifies

International Relations

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1. China’s Strong Warning to Europe

China has issued a sharp warning to the European Union after Chinese firms were included in the EU’s 20th sanctions package against Russia. China’s Ministry of Commerce expressed “firm opposition” and “strong dissatisfaction,” urging Europe to immediately remove these companies from the sanctions list.

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2. Why China Opposes the Sanctions

The EU has accused certain Chinese companies of supplying high-tech and dual-use goods to Russia’s military-industrial sector. However, China argues that these sanctions are unilateral and not authorized by the UN Security Council. Beijing maintains that such measures violate international trade norms and unfairly target Chinese businesses.

3. Criticism of ‘Long-Arm Jurisdiction’

China has criticized the EU’s action as an example of “long-arm jurisdiction,” where one region applies its laws beyond its borders. According to Chinese officials, this approach interferes with global trade practices and undermines mutual trust between China and Europe, potentially harming long-term economic cooperation.

4. Warning of Countermeasures

China has clearly stated that if the EU does not reverse its decision, it will take “necessary measures” to protect its companies. These could include retaliatory economic actions, export controls, or restrictions impacting European businesses operating in China.

5. Broader Global Implications

Analysts believe the EU is targeting third-country suppliers to limit Russia’s access to advanced technology amid the Russia-Ukraine War. However, China views this as a politically motivated move that could escalate tensions and complicate ongoing trade negotiations between the two economic powers.