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The Potential and Challenges of China-EU Supply Chain Cooperation: An Analysis in the Post-Pandemic and Geopolitical Context

Jiandong Shi

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Szerkesztésért felelős személy: Ju Weiwei

Kiadásért felelős személy: Feng Zhongping

China-CEE Institute
中国—中东欧研究院

1052 Budapest Petőfi Sándor utca 11.
+36 1 5858 690
office@china-cee.eu
china-cee.eu

The Potential and Challenges of China-EU Supply Chain Cooperation: An Analysis in the Post-Pandemic and Geopolitical Context

Jiandong Shi[1]

Abstract

The ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and the Ukraine crisis have deeply shaken global supply chains, prompting a shift toward greater resilience and regionalization. Against this backdrop, this paper explores the opportunities and hurdles in China-EU supply chain cooperation. By examining recent trade relations and their complementary strengths—highlighting Hungary as a key example—the study illustrates Hungary's vital role in logistics hub development and digital supply chain collaboration under the Belt and Road Initiative. However, cooperation also faces significant challenges, including the EU's move toward economic diplomacy and security policies, increased investment screenings and trade protectionism, and the unpredictable disruptions caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Drawing on international experience and policy trends, the paper suggests that future success will rely on supply chain finance innovation, building resilience, and stronger policy coordination and strategic trust. Ultimately, China and Europe should deepen cooperation in rule alignment, strategic trust, and green digital supply chains to foster a more stable, long-term partnership based on mutual benefit.

Keywords: China-EU supply chain cooperation; supply chain resilience; geopolitical risks; investment screening; digital supply chains; supply chain finance; Belt and Road; economic security.

[1] Jiandong Shi, PhD, Researcher, Centre for International Economy, Mathias Corvinus Collegium, Budapest (shi.jiandong@mcc.hu).

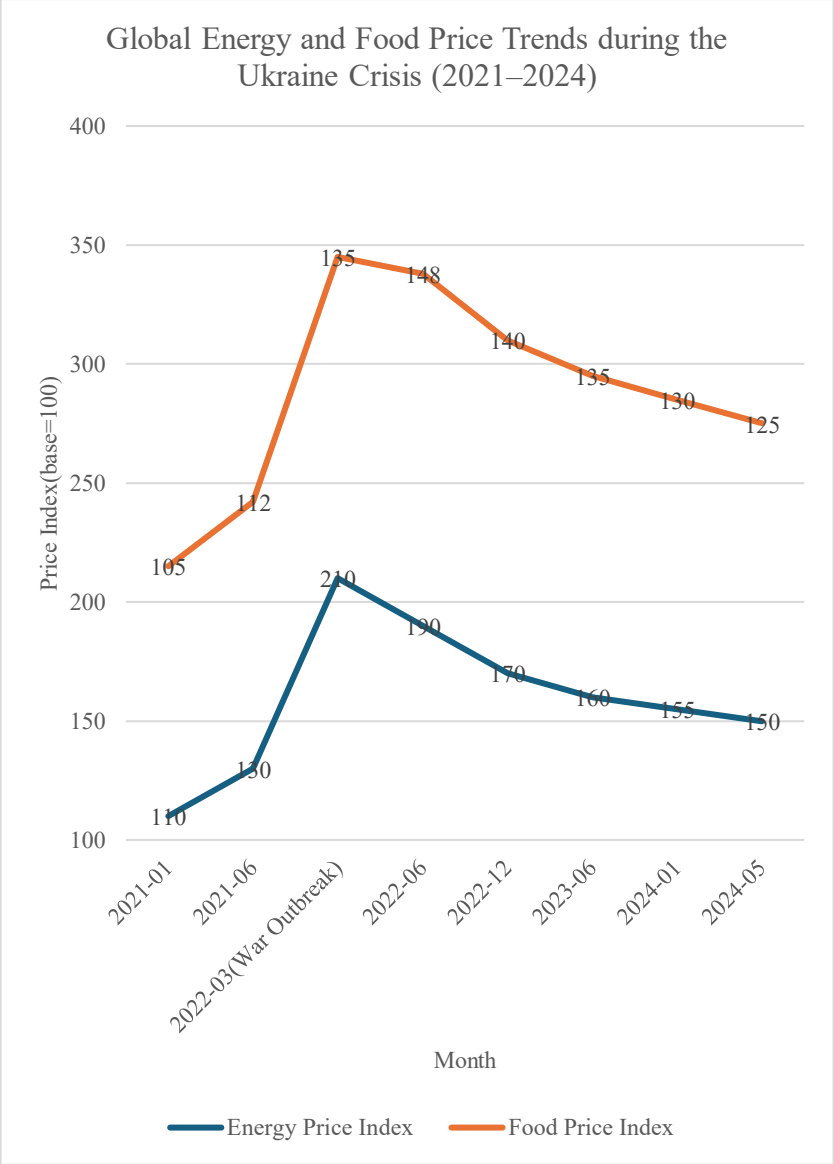
1. Introduction

(1) Background of the Study

In recent years, the global economy has faced a series of unprecedented shocks, with the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis being the most prominent. The outbreak of these events has caused significant disruptions to global supply chains and prompted economies worldwide to reevaluate their existing supply chain structures and dependencies.

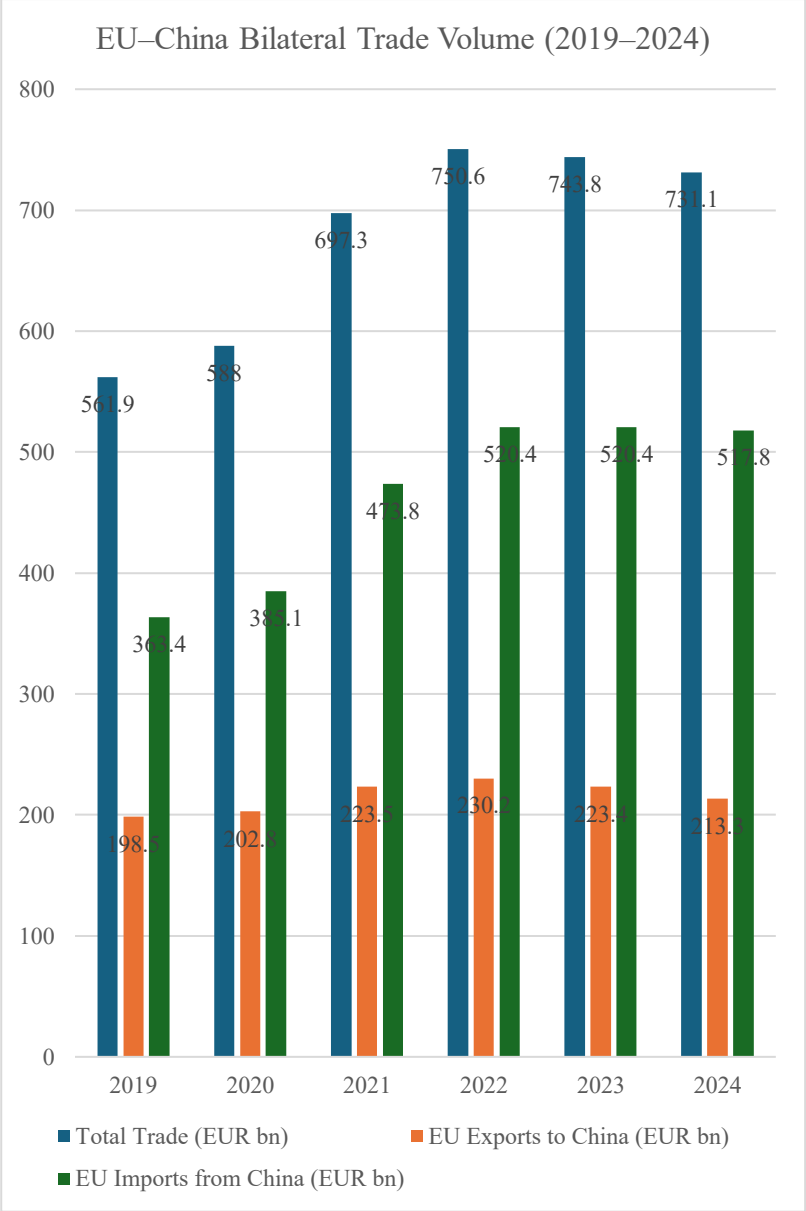
The COVID-19 outbreak not only triggered a global public health crisis but also exposed the structural vulnerabilities of highly concentrated supply chains that are susceptible to external shocks. During the pandemic, shortages of masks, semiconductors, and essential medical supplies highlighted the risks of over-reliance on single countries or regions for production. This has sparked a trend toward diversification, regionalization, and nearshoring of supply chains (Global Think Tank, 2023).

The subsequent Ukraine crisis further intensified these uncertainties. After the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in February 2022, Europe and the global community experienced severe disruptions in energy and food supply chains. Transportation costs soared, and logistics safety and efficiency declined markedly. According to data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), since the conflict began, global energy and food prices have fluctuated dramatically—energy prices once doubled compared to pre-crisis levels, and food prices also saw significant increases. Geopolitical conflicts have added complexity to supply chain issues, heightening the urgency for global economic actors to find solutions to ensure supply chain security and resilience.



Source: Compiled by the author based on data from the IMF Commodity Price Index and FAO Food Price Index.

Specifically in the context of China-EU relations, as two of each other's most important trading partners, cooperation and coordination in supply chains have become particularly crucial. Data shows that in recent years, China-EU trade has been steadily increasing, and in 2022, bilateral trade reached nearly €856 billion—an all-time high—highlighting strong economic complementarity and close ties. However, at the same time, there have been differences and frictions between China and Europe regarding supply chain risk management, safeguarding economic security, and ensuring smooth trade flows. Against this backdrop, exploring the potential and challenges of China-EU supply chain cooperation is both urgent and necessary.



Source: Compiled by the author based on data from Eurostat (Comext), 2025.

(2) Significance of the Study and Research Methodology

From a practical standpoint, China-EU supply chain cooperation is vital to the stability and recovery of the global economy. The interconnectedness of supply chains between China and Europe not only influences their respective economic interests but also plays a crucial role in maintaining the smooth functioning of the global economic system. Especially amid rising geopolitical uncertainties and systemic risks facing global supply chains, strengthening cooperation between China and Europe can effectively reduce global economic volatility and help build resilience.

Academically, this study is characterized by its interdisciplinary approach, drawing insights from economics, international relations, and logistics management. Current research predominantly focuses on macro-level analyses of trade volume and investment scale. However, systematic, in-depth studies on supply chain restructuring, cooperation mechanisms, challenges, and strategies under geopolitical shocks are still lacking (Biyang, 2023; Zhao Xiande interview, 2023). Therefore, this research aims to fill that gap, offering new perspectives, case studies, and approaches for scholars and practitioners alike.

To ensure rigor and comprehensiveness, this study employs a multi-faceted methodology. First, it relies on extensive primary data and official reports, such as those from the European Union, IMF, and FAO, to ensure accuracy and authority. Second, it conducts a thorough review of recent literature from the EU, China, and international think tanks (e.g., Global Think Tank, 2023; Li Wanchao, 2023; Biyang, 2023), constructing a solid theoretical framework. Additionally, by focusing on Hungary as a representative case, the study analyzes China-EU rail logistics and digital supply chain collaborations, vividly illustrating practical features and challenges.

Finally, visual charts and graphs are used to clearly depict the trends, strengths, and obstacles in China-EU supply chain cooperation, making the analysis more accessible and convincing.

This research aims to explore the strategic importance, practical challenges, and future outlook of China-EU supply chain cooperation amid the twin shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis. It seeks to provide policy recommendations and theoretical insights that support the long-term, stable development of China-EU economic relations.

2. Background and Current Status of China-EU Supply Chain Cooperation

(1) Supply Chain Transformation in the Context of Globalization and Geopolitics

Over the past few decades, globalization has accelerated, leading to a more refined and complex international division of labor and supply chain system. However, recent repeated

shocks—namely the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis—have exposed significant structural vulnerabilities and high dependency risks within the long-established global supply chain network, forcing the global economy to reconsider and readjust its existing supply chain layouts.

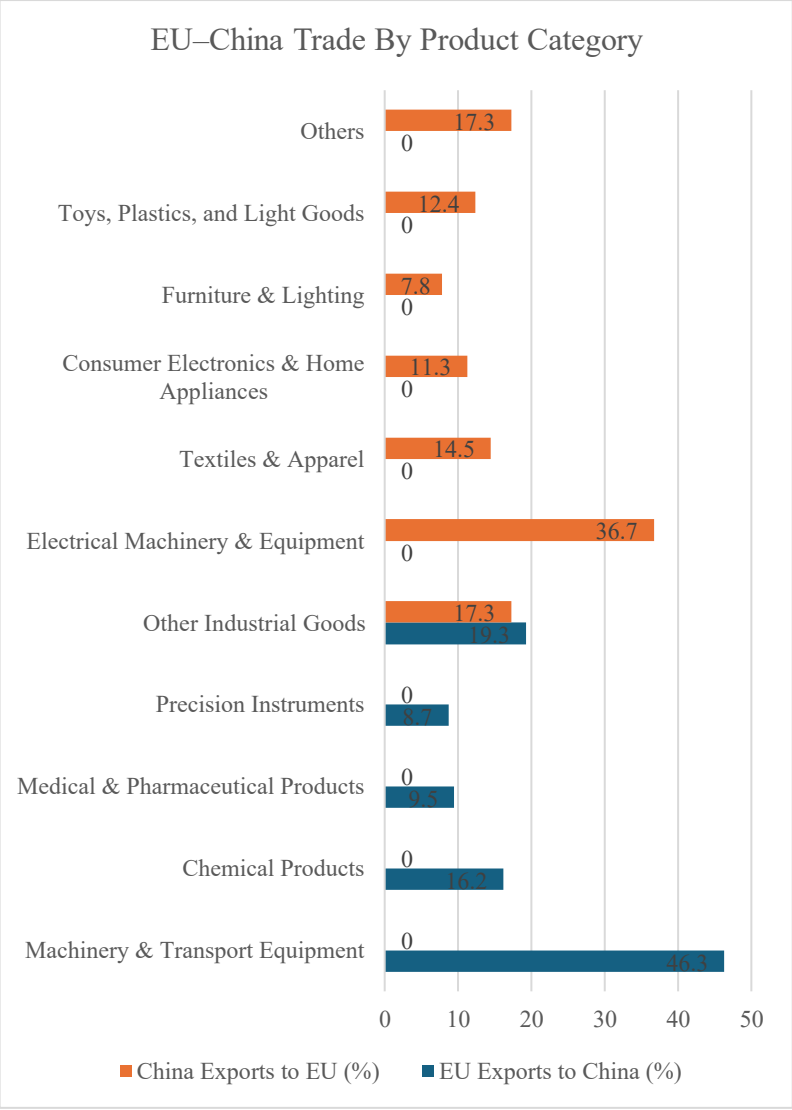
The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the fragility of global supply chains, particularly their high concentration and over-reliance on specific regions or countries. For example, shortages of medical supplies in early 2020 and subsequent chip shortages severely impacted manufacturing and service industries worldwide. The Global Think Tank (2023) pointed out that this pandemic underscored the systemic risks within the global supply chain network when faced with large-scale external shocks. Issues such as concentration, lack of resilience, and inadequate emergency response capabilities have become critical bottlenecks hindering sustained economic recovery.

The subsequent Ukraine crisis further intensified global supply chain uncertainties and vulnerabilities. The outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in February 2022 rapidly drove up global energy and food prices, exacerbating inflationary pressures worldwide. Specifically, according to data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), during the crisis period, global energy and food price indices experienced significant surges—peaking at roughly double, or even higher, compared to pre-crisis levels. This led to soaring logistics costs, reduced supply chain stability, and accelerated the shift from globalization toward regionalization and diversification of supply chains.

(2) Overview of China-EU Trade Relations and Complementary Advantages

Despite the dual challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions, China-EU trade cooperation has maintained a steady growth trajectory. Data shows that in 2022, bilateral trade between China and Europe reached €856 billion, setting a new record. This trend reflects the strong resilience and high interdependence of the economic relationship between the two sides.

In terms of trade structure, the high degree of complementarity in goods exchanged between China and Europe is a key driver of this growth. According to data from the European Union Statistics Office and China's General Administration of Customs, the structure of China-EU trade clearly demonstrates the mutually beneficial advantages of both economies. Specifically, EU exports to China mainly consist of machinery, transport equipment, and advanced chemical products—highlighting the EU's strengths in technology-intensive industries. Conversely, China's exports to Europe primarily include electromechanical equipment, consumer electronics, and light industrial textiles, showcasing China's comparative advantages in manufacturing scale and supply chain efficiency. This structural complementarity has effectively fostered deeper integration within bilateral supply chains.



Source: Compiled by the author based on data from Eurostat (Comext), 2024

From the perspective of supply chain collaboration, the mutually reinforcing strengths of China and Europe have laid a solid foundation for cooperation. China boasts a comprehensive industrial chain and efficient large-scale production capacity, enabling it to effectively meet the substantial demand from the EU market for various industrial and consumer goods. At the same time, the EU possesses advanced manufacturing technologies, rigorous regulatory standards, and mature market management practices, which present valuable opportunities for Chinese enterprises to enhance product value and technological capabilities (Zhao Xiande interview, 2023).

However, it is important to note that in recent years, as the EU's external economic policies have shifted, some frictions and disagreements have emerged in bilateral supply chain cooperation. Particularly in strategic areas such as digital technology and green transition, new challenges and uncertainties have arisen (Biyang, 2023). How to deepen supply chain cooperation under this new policy environment has become a key issue in China-EU economic relations.

In the context of the post-pandemic era and geopolitical shifts, China-EU supply chain cooperation is undergoing a strategic transformation from traditional models toward greater resilience and deeper mutual trust. The global trend of supply chain restructuring offers both new opportunities and challenges for China-EU collaboration. Analyzing these backgrounds and current developments in depth will help clarify the key areas and prioritized policy pathways for future cooperation.

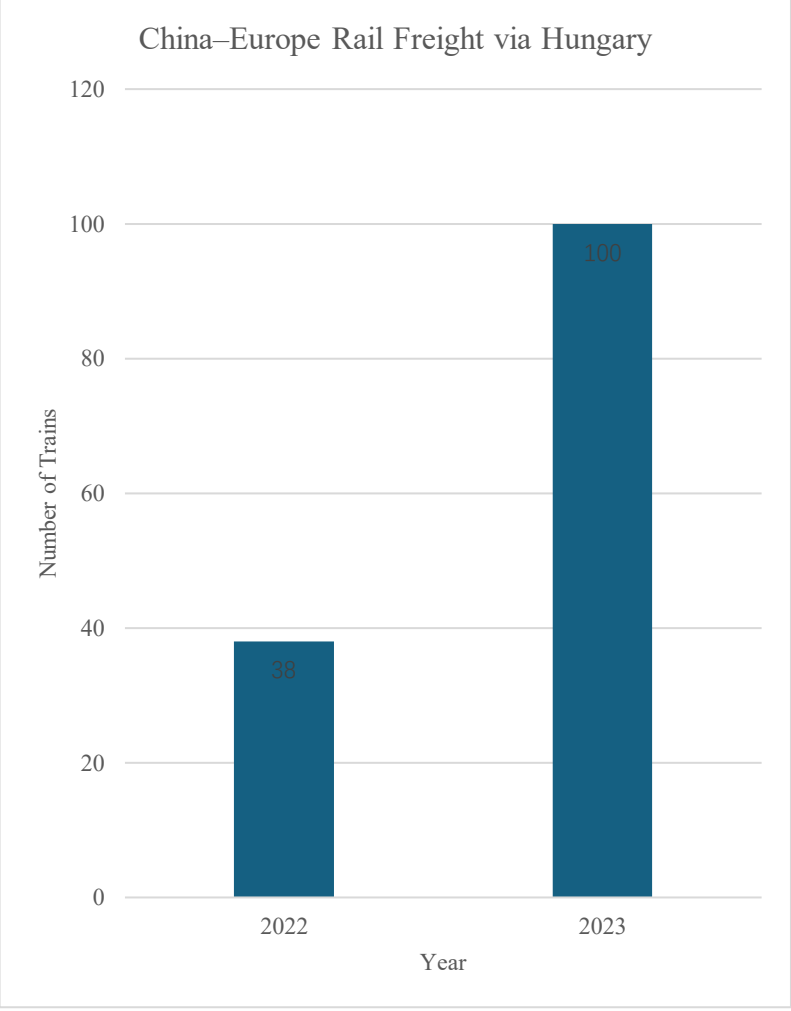
3. Case Study of China-EU Supply Chain Cooperation: Focus on Hungary

(1) Hungary's Strategic Role in the Belt and Road Initiative and Its Position as a Logistics Hub

As a key country in Central and Eastern Europe, Hungary has been playing an increasingly important strategic role in the Belt and Road Initiative in recent years. Benefiting from its advantageous geographic location and well-developed logistics infrastructure, Hungary is gradually emerging as a vital logistics hub connecting Chinese and European

markets. Particularly with the rapid development of the China-EU Railway Express, Hungary's role within the European land bridge has become even more prominent.

Infrastructure projects, such as the Budapest–Serbia railway, exemplify Hungary's rising strategic importance. According to the latest data from Rail Cargo Group Hungary, freight volumes on China-EU rail routes within Hungary have seen rapid growth in recent years. The Budapest East–West Gate (EWG) Logistics Center, in particular, has become a representative example, with freight volumes increasing significantly. For instance, between 2017 and 2023, the number of rail freight containers handled by the Budapest EWG Logistics Center surged, highlighting Hungary's crucial role in Europe's logistics network and its rapidly expanding influence (Rail Cargo Group, 2023).



Source: Compiled by the author based on data from Rail Cargo Group Hungary and Upply Freight Insights (2023).

Furthermore, Huawei's logistics center in Hungary has further solidified the country's role as a key node on the European side of the Belt and Road Initiative. This logistics hub not only provides Huawei with efficient and stable logistical support for expanding its presence in Europe but also serves as a vital gateway for Chinese enterprises entering the European market. By effectively integrating railway and road transportation resources between China and Europe, Huawei's logistics center has significantly enhanced the distribution efficiency and responsiveness of Chinese-manufactured electronics and equipment in Europe, underscoring Hungary's strategic value as a logistics hub (Rail Cargo Group, 2023).

(2) Analysis of Hungary's Role in Digital Supply Chain Cooperation

Beyond traditional logistics infrastructure development, Hungary's role in China-EU digital supply chain cooperation is increasingly prominent. The integration of digital technologies is significantly enhancing supply chain efficiency and resilience, and Hungary's advantageous geographic location, coupled with its robust information infrastructure, has positioned it as a critical hub for China-EU digital logistics collaboration.

Taking companies like Huawei and Alibaba as examples, these firms have been steadily expanding their digital supply chain projects in Hungary and integrating deeply with local logistics facilities. According to the latest data from the Budapest EWG Logistics Hub, as Huawei, Alibaba, and other companies have introduced advanced digital management platforms, Hungary has become an essential node for connecting China-EU digital supply chain platforms and enabling data interconnectivity (EWG Terminal Data, 2023). This collaborative model not only improves logistics efficiency but also significantly reduces supply chain operational costs, resulting in tangible economic benefits for both China and Europe.

Digital Supply Chain Cooperation

Source: Compiled by the author based on data from Huawei Europe and EWG Terminal, Hungary.

Specifically, Chinese digital platforms such as Huawei and Alibaba's logistics systems have achieved interconnectedness with the broader Central and Eastern European and EU markets through the Budapest Logistics Hub. This model facilitates real-time cargo tracking, digital warehouse management, and intelligent logistics scheduling, significantly enhancing supply chain flexibility and the ability to respond rapidly to market demands (Zhao Xiande interview, 2023). Simultaneously, Hungary has further solidified its position as a logistics and trade hub within the EU through this cooperative approach.

Leveraging its strategic geographic location and advanced logistics infrastructure, Hungary not only exemplifies a successful case of China-EU supply chain cooperation but also provides practical models and pathways for deeper future collaboration. Through this case centered on Hungary, this study further clarifies the immense potential for China and Europe to strengthen cooperation in the supply chain domain, as well as the promising prospects for innovation driven by digital technologies.

4. Major Challenges Facing China-EU Supply Chain Cooperation

Against the backdrop of an evolving global economic and political landscape, China-EU supply chain cooperation faces several significant challenges. These challenges are primarily reflected in the EU’s shifting economic diplomacy strategies, increased investment screening, rising trade protectionism, and the heightened uncertainties in supply chains caused by the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

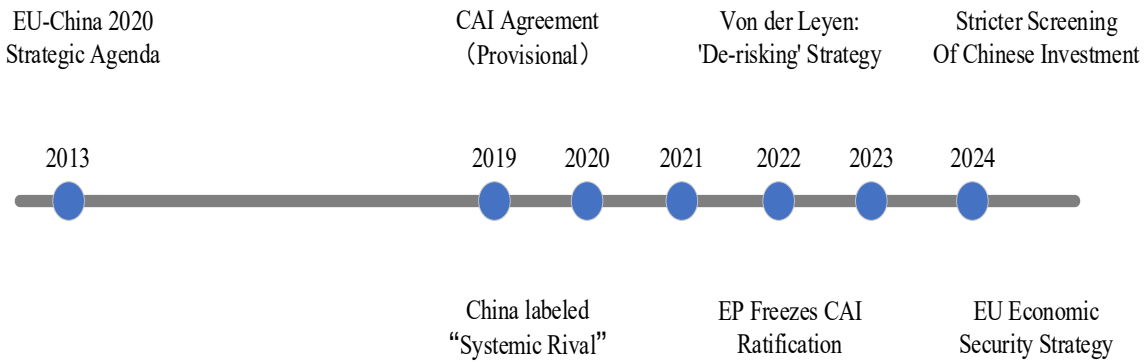
(1) Challenge One: The EU’s Strategic Shift in Economic Diplomacy

In recent years, the European Union's economic diplomacy policy has undergone a notable transformation, gradually shifting from a traditional, trade-focused approach to one that prioritizes security and strategic competition, emphasizing economic security. This shift has been particularly evident under the leadership of Ursula von der Leyen and the European Commission. In 2023, the European Commission released the Strategic Foresight Report, which explicitly identified economic security and supply chain autonomy as the new focal points of the EU’s economic diplomacy. The EU emphasizes achieving strategic independence

and “de-risking” in critical technologies, raw materials, and digital infrastructure sectors to reduce external dependencies—especially on countries like China (Biyang, 2023).

This trend toward economic securitization significantly complicates China-EU supply chain cooperation, especially in areas such as technical standards, export controls, and investment screening. The policy evolution timeline clearly shows that since 2016, the EU’s economic diplomacy has increasingly emphasized security and strategic considerations, continuously tightening policy reviews and enforcement. This trajectory suggests that future China-EU supply chain cooperation will face more stringent regulatory environments, leading to reduced supply chain stability, higher compliance costs for enterprises, and increased barriers to market access.

Timeline of the EU's Economic Diplomacy Shift toward China

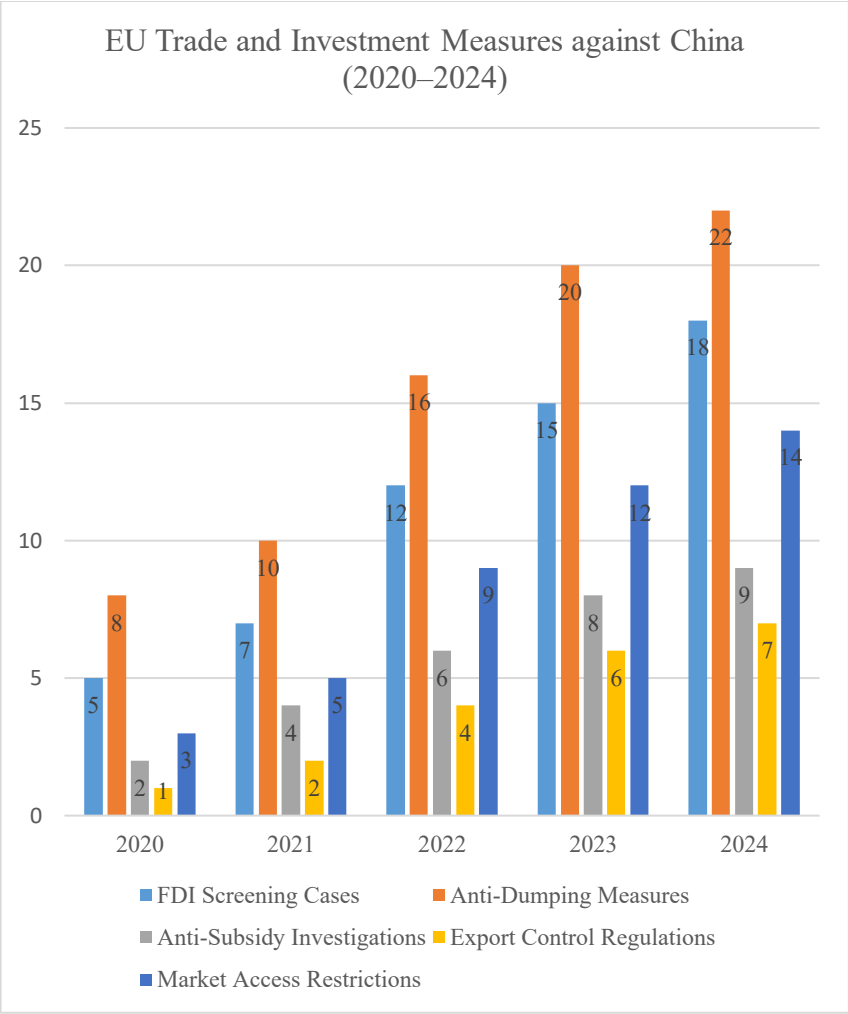


Source: Compiled by the author based on European Commission policy documents (2013–2024) and statements by Ursula von der Leyen.

(2) Challenge Two: Strengthening of EU Investment Screening and Trade Protectionism

Accompanying the transformation of its economic diplomacy, the EU has significantly intensified its investment screening measures and trade protectionism policies. In recent years, the EU has markedly increased its review of direct investments from China and has imposed stricter restrictions on Chinese acquisitions and investments in critical infrastructure, cutting-

edge technology, and strategic industries. Data from the European Commission (2020–2024) indicates a steady annual rise in cases of investment review involving China since 2020. Additionally, trade protection measures—such as anti-dumping and anti-subsidy tariffs—targeting products like biodiesel, steel, and photovoltaic goods, have continued to increase, creating mounting barriers for Chinese companies seeking to enter the EU market.



Source: Compiled by the author based on official data from the European Commission (2020–2024).

This stringent regulatory environment not only raises the barriers for Chinese companies seeking to enter the EU market but also negatively impacts existing supply chains. For instance, the number of anti-dumping investigations initiated by the EU against Chinese enterprises has shown a significant increase from 2020 to 2023, highlighting the EU's growing frequency and strictness in imposing restrictions on imports from China (European Commission, 2020–2024).

These policy measures undoubtedly heighten business uncertainties and further hinder deep cooperation and integration within the supply chain between China and Europe.

(3) Challenge Three: Supply Chain Uncertainty Caused by the Ukraine Crisis

Beyond policy-related uncertainties, the geopolitical crisis stemming from the Russia-Ukraine conflict has also exerted profound negative impacts on China-EU supply chain cooperation. Since the eruption of the conflict in February 2022, global energy and food prices have experienced extreme volatility, placing tremendous pressure on supply chains. Data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) indicate that during the Ukraine crisis, global energy and food price indices surged sharply. At their peak, energy prices exceeded twice the pre-crisis levels, while food prices remained at elevated levels for an extended period.

The dramatic fluctuations in energy and food prices directly led to soaring logistics costs and increased instability in supply chain operations. Particularly, logistics routes through Ukraine, Belarus, and neighboring regions were severely disrupted or damaged (Globalization Think Tank, 2023). As one of the key logistics channels for China-EU supply chain cooperation, the China-EU Railway Express also faced heightened risks of route disruptions, decreased transportation efficiency, and rising costs, which significantly undermined the overall resilience and sustainability of the supply chain.

The policy uncertainties arising from the EU's strategic shift in economic diplomacy, the strengthening of investment screening and trade protectionism, and the global supply chain volatility triggered by the Ukraine crisis collectively constitute the major challenges facing China-EU supply chain cooperation today. Addressing and overcoming these challenges will be crucial in shaping the future development trajectory and strategic depth of China-EU supply chain collaboration.

5. Future Trends and Policy Recommendations for China-EU Supply Chain Cooperation

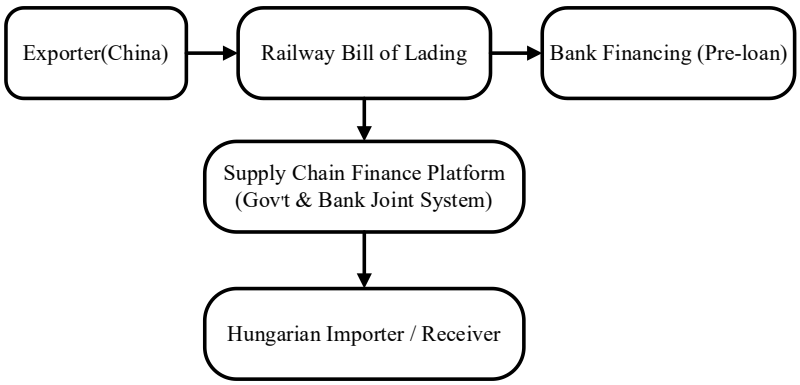
In facing the aforementioned challenges, the future development of China-EU supply chain cooperation must be more forward-looking and innovative. Key trends and effective policy pathways include supply chain financial innovation, resilience building, policy coordination, and strengthening strategic mutual trust.

(1) Trend One: Innovation and Application of Supply Chain Finance

As global supply chain risks continue to rise, innovation in supply chain finance has become a crucial direction for deepening China-EU cooperation. Particularly in the operation of the China-EU Railway Express, adopting internationally advanced supply chain financial models can effectively reduce trade financing risks and enhance operational efficiency.

One particularly valuable reference is Japan's export credit agency (NEXI)'s rail bill financing model. According to research by Li Wanchao (2023) and official data from NEXI, Japan's rail bill financing employs policy guarantees and bank prepayment mechanisms, enabling enterprises to secure rapid funding based solely on railway bills. This significantly boosts supply chain liquidity and resilience. This model is highly applicable to the current China-EU Railway Express transportation system.

China-EU Supply Chain Finance lnnovation Model (Inspired by japan)



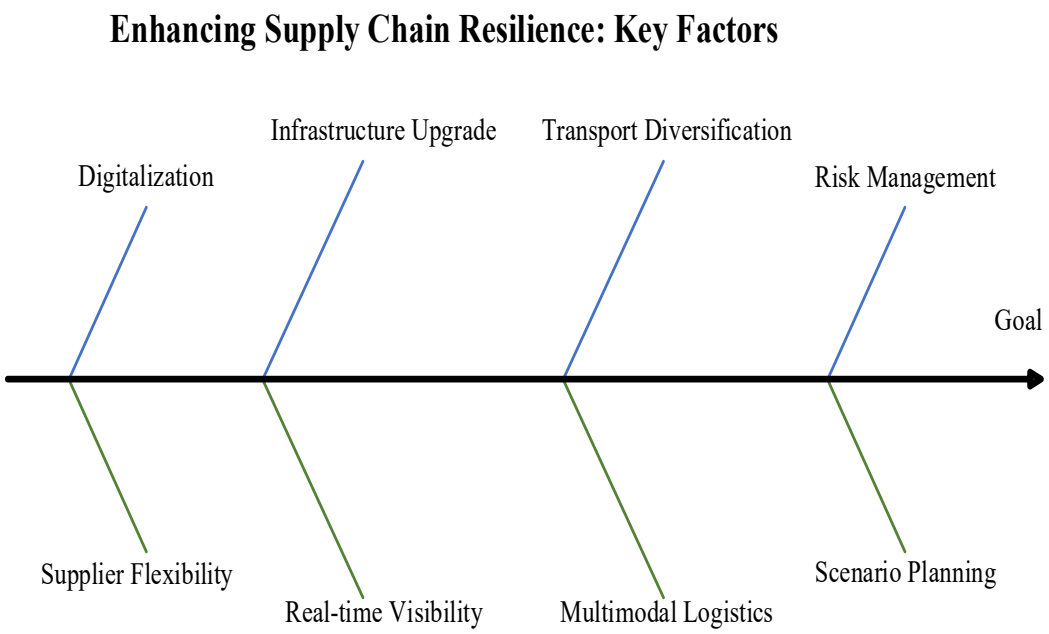
Source: Compiled by the author based on data from China Railway Express and Japan's NEXI (Nippon Export and Investment Insurance).

Taking Hungary as an example, Budapest, as a key node in European railway logistics, possesses favorable conditions for introducing rail bill financing models. Specifically, by establishing a digital supply chain finance platform jointly developed by the government and banks, it is possible to digitize the rights confirmation and financing functions of railway bills. This would enable export enterprises to obtain rapid funding, thereby strengthening the stability of the logistics chain and enhancing financial support. Such financial innovation has the potential to inject new momentum into China-EU supply chain cooperation and provide sustained financial backing.

(2) Trend Two: Building and Enhancing Supply Chain Resilience

Enhancing supply chain resilience is a key strategic focus in the post-pandemic era and against the backdrop of geopolitical turbulence. According to the European Commission's 2023 Strategic Foresight Report, future China-EU supply chain development should prioritize the strategic deployment of regional logistics hubs, the construction of multimodal transport systems, and the widespread adoption of digital management platforms.

Specifically, first, there should be an accelerated effort to establish regional logistics centers, optimize logistics infrastructure—such as upgrading railway and road transfer facilities and warehousing management centers—and improve cargo transfer and storage capabilities. Second, broadening the adoption of multimodal transport can effectively reduce dependence on single-route pathways. By rationally combining rail, road, air, and sea transport modes, supply chains can maintain basic operations even when specific routes are obstructed, thereby increasing resilience. Third, developing digital platforms—such as intelligent warehouse management systems, blockchain-based logistics traceability, and real-time logistics scheduling—can significantly boost the overall responsiveness of supply chains and their capacity to adapt to external shocks.



Source: Compiled by the author based on the European Commission's 2023 Strategic Foresight Report.

Through these measures, the resilience of China-Europe supply chains will be significantly strengthened, enabling better responses to external shocks and substantially reducing the potential risks of global supply chain disruptions.

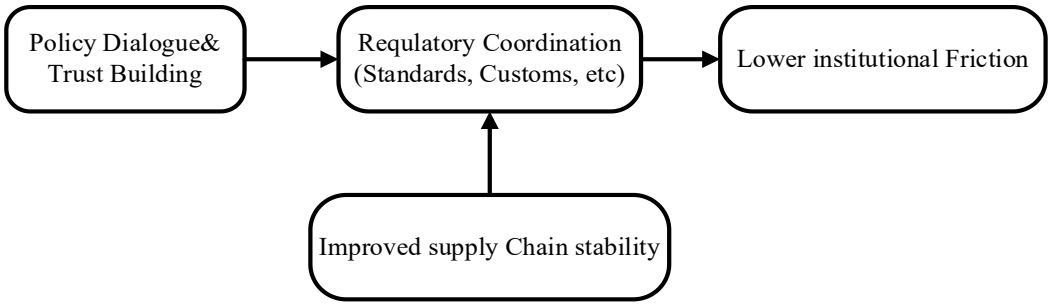
(3) Trend Three: Policy Coordination and Strategic Mutual Trust Building between China and Europe

Supply chain stability depends not only on infrastructure and technological advancements but also critically on policy coordination and strategic mutual trust. Recent challenges in China-EU relations highlight that effective coordination and communication at the policy level are essential to genuinely reduce institutional frictions and uncertainties in supply chain operations.

The European Commission's 2023 Strategic Foresight Report explicitly emphasizes that strengthening policy coordination and harmonizing regulations will substantially lower institutional barriers and compliance costs during supply chain cooperation. For instance, policy alignment on technical standards, customs procedures, and key product certification

between China and Europe will directly reduce trade barriers and improve supply chain efficiency. Establishing mechanisms for strategic mutual trust can further effectively mitigate the adverse impacts of trade frictions and economic conflicts on supply chain collaboration.

Coordination between EU-China Policies and Supply Chain Stability



Source: Compiled by the author based on the European Commission's 2023 Strategic Foresight Report.

Especially against the backdrop of increasingly prominent concerns over economic security, China and Europe can leverage high-level policy dialogues and rule-coordination mechanisms to continually improve their economic interaction environment, thereby enhancing transparency and stability within supply chain cooperation. This approach not only addresses immediate policy needs but also serves as a crucial guarantee for the sustained deepening of future economic collaboration.

Innovation in supply chain finance, resilience-building, and policy coordination coupled with strategic mutual trust constitute the three key trends and effective policy pathways for China-EU supply chain cooperation moving forward. Only through continuous breakthroughs and deeper collaboration in these areas can the China-EU supply chain evolve toward a more stable, mutually beneficial, and sustainable future.

6. Conclusion and Outlook

(1) Research Conclusions

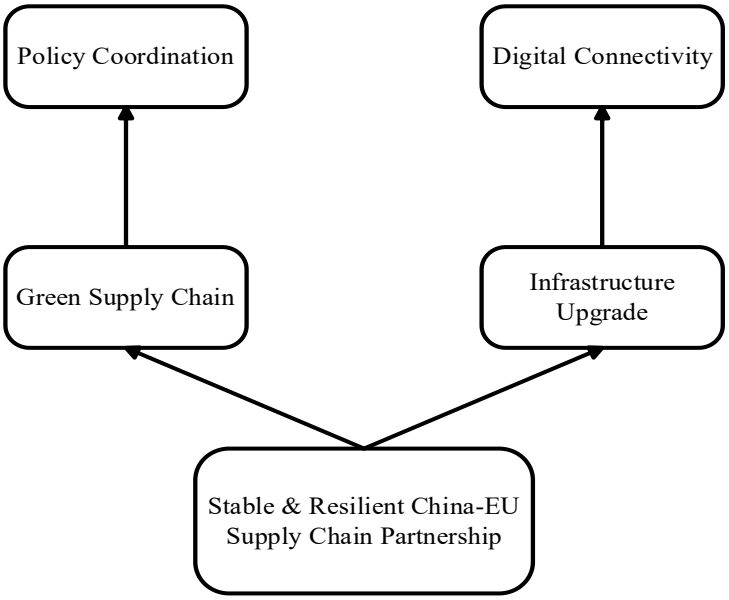
This study, grounded in the global economic context following the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis, systematically analyzes the potential, challenges, and future trends of China-EU supply chain cooperation. The findings reveal that, amidst the ongoing reshaping of global supply chains, China-EU cooperation faces unprecedented strategic opportunities alongside tangible challenges.

Firstly, from the perspective of economic complementarities, China and Europe exhibit highly complementary advantages. China boasts significant strengths in economies of scale within manufacturing, a complete industrial chain, and a large market size. Conversely, the EU excels in high-end manufacturing, innovation capabilities, and regulatory governance (Interview with Zhao Xiande, 2023). This structural complementarity not only drives continuous growth in bilateral trade but also lays a solid economic foundation for future supply chain collaboration.

However, China-EU supply chain cooperation must also confront geopolitical and institutional obstacles. The “security-centric” shift in the EU’s economic diplomacy policy (Biyang, 2023), along with the ongoing tightening of investment screening and trade protectionism, has markedly increased barriers to market entry and operational costs for enterprises. Additionally, the sharp fluctuations in energy and food prices triggered by the Ukraine crisis have heightened supply chain uncertainties, highlighting the fragility of traditional supply chain models (Globalization Think Tank, 2023).

In conclusion, the outlook for China-EU supply chain cooperation remains promising, but it requires joint efforts from both sides to address the escalating policy complexities and geopolitical risks. Only through sustained cooperation can they deepen their partnership and achieve mutual benefits.

Future Cooperation Model of China-EU Supply Chain



Source: Compiled by the author based on the European Commission's 2023 Strategic Foresight Report and China's Belt and Road Initiative policy documents.

(2) Policy Implications

Based on the above research findings, the following policy recommendations are proposed:

First, both sides should place high importance on policy rule coordination and the building of strategic mutual trust. Through continuous high-level policy dialogues and institutional cooperation frameworks, efforts should be made to align rules, standards, and regulatory systems, thereby reducing institutional barriers. Such policy coordination can directly enhance supply chain stability and operational efficiency (European Commission's Strategic Foresight Report, 2023).

Second, there should be a strong push towards digitalization and green supply chain cooperation. In the context of global digital transformation and sustainable development trends, China and Europe should prioritize digital supply chain platforms, intelligent logistics infrastructure, and low-carbon green transportation as strategic focus areas. The construction of the Digital Silk Road under the Belt and Road Initiative and the objectives of the European

Green Deal are highly aligned, offering significant potential for strategic synergy in this domain (European Commission's Strategic Foresight Report, 2023; Belt and Road Initiative Document, 2023).

Third, further deepening innovation in supply chain finance is essential. Drawing on international advanced models to address financing challenges can enhance the operational efficiency and risk resilience of supply chains. Implementing financial innovations such as rail bill financing will effectively strengthen financial support and liquidity assurance for China-EU Railway Express and cross-border trade (Li Wanchao, 2023).

(3) Recommendations for Future Research Direction

Although this paper provides an in-depth analysis of key issues in China-EU supply chain cooperation, several areas still warrant further investigation:

First, quantifying geopolitical risks. Future research could develop quantitative models to analyze how geopolitical risks impact the efficiency and stability of China-EU supply chains, thereby offering more targeted policy recommendations.

Second, case studies of digital supply chain cooperation. Subsequent studies could examine specific examples of digital supply chain collaboration between China and Central and Eastern European countries, uncovering both successful practices and areas for improvement.

Third, empirical research on supply chain financial innovation. Focused studies on nodes such as China-EU Railway Express and Hungary could explore practical innovations in supply chain finance, providing concrete operational suggestions and implementation pathways.

In conclusion, this study's comprehensive analysis of China-EU supply chain cooperation has laid out strategic pathways and policy recommendations for future development, offering a solid theoretical foundation and policy reference for the continued

deepening of China-EU economic relations. Continued research in these areas will further promote the advancement of China-EU supply chain cooperation toward a more stable, resilient, and mutually beneficial future.

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