Dear [Out of scope]

I would like to thank you for your letter to European Commission Executive Vice-President, Trade Commissioner, Mr Valdis Dombrovskis [Out of scope] [Out of scope]. Please accept my sincere apologies for a belated reply.

The EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI), concluded in principle on 30 December, is part of our bilateral engagement. We continue to think that CAI would bring positive elements to Europe and European companies with a view to rebalancing our economic relationship with China, by covering many asks that the European companies have been raising for decades when it comes to access and fair rules of engagement in the Chinese market.

Nevertheless, work towards conclusion of CAI does not happen in a political vacuum and should be seen in the wider political context. The Chinese retaliatory sanctions are regrettable and do not create for the moment the favourable environment needed. The agreement has not been presented for adoption and ratification and we will reassess the situation once technical work for legal review and translation has been completed.

CAI has the potential to provide access to the Chinese market and establish a more transparent and predictable environment for European companies operating in the Chinese market. Importantly, CAI contains a robust implementation and enforcement mechanism, which will help the EU to ensure that China follows through on its commitments in CAI once it enters into force. Regular dialogue and involvement of the stakeholders will be part of the implementation process, like in other EU trade and investment agreements.
Yours faithfully,

[ e-signed ]
Art.4.1(b)
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