

The Frontier Post

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EU betraying its proclaimed principles

RESPONDING to the European Commission's reported exploration of ways to force EU member states to phase out Huawei and ZTE from EU telecom networks, China has urged the European Union to provide a fair, transparent and nondiscriminatory business environment for Chinese companies, and to avoid harming the confidence of these companies in their investment in Europe.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said in Beijing on Tuesday that limiting or banning companies' access to the market through administrative means without any legal grounds or factual basis severely violates market principles and the rules of fair competition. As he pointed out, turning trade into security and political issues hinders technological progress and economic growth, and "will do no one any good".

Experience has demonstrated that the removal of Chinese telecom companies' secure and quality equipment not only impedes countries' domestic technological development, but also results in heavy financial losses.

Chinese companies have been doing business in Europe in accordance with the law, providing quality products and services to the European people, and making contributions to local socioeconomic development and employment.

Restricting market access for Chinese companies without solid legal or factual justification not only contravenes market principles, but also risks undermining the very foundation of fair competition that the EU prides itself on.

The EU always claims that it remains committed to free and fair trade, because one out of every seven jobs in the EU depends on trade with the outside world. And it claims it maintains an equal playing field for all companies and products, insisting it favors openness and rejects protectionism. Yet when the EU has done recently concerning Chinese companies belies its claims and serves only as an example of hypocrisy.

According to reports, the European Commission has singled out Huawei and ZTE as "high-risk" vendors and is planning to make it legally binding for EU member states to phase out equipment from the Chinese companies from telecommunications networks in Europe, on the spurious grounds that they pose national security threats. These allegations are unsubstantiated. In fact, the Chinese companies in Europe have always complied with EU regulations and endured over-scrutiny that hampers normal business operations.

By adopting shortsighted trade and technology policies that antagonize its major trading partner, the EU is harming the interests of Chinese enterprises in a misguided attempt to align the EU with the "de-risk" strategy peddled by some anti-China politicians, which harms its own interests.

Besides dismantling existing telecommunications facilities related to Huawei and ZTE and replacing them with European-made equipment will incur substantial economic and customer-related costs. For instance, Germany alone faces an estimated cost of 2.7 billion euros (\$3.12 billion) to remove Huawei equipment from its telecom sites, with Deutsche Telekom projected to spend 1.2 billion euros, Belgium and the Netherlands, which rely heavily on Huawei for 4G and 5G networks, face similarly steep transition costs. The lack of a unified EU compensation framework exacerbates the strain.

The latest EU move flies in the face of the commitment it has made to deepen China-EU relations, manage differences in a constructive manner and achieve more positive outcomes in bilateral cooperation.

China's policy toward the EU has always been consistent and clear. The country views the EU as a partner and seeks to develop China-EU relations from a strategic and long-term perspective. The current challenges facing the EU do not come from China, and there are no fundamental conflicts of interest or geopolitical contradictions between the two sides.

Hopefully, Brussels will not let the mutually-beneficial China-EU relations be hijacked by some politicians' misjudgment, and work to ensure that the EU remains open to Chinese trade and investment. It should promote balanced, reciprocal and mutually-beneficial cooperation instead of adopting restrictive and protectionist measures.

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Field Marshal phobia in Godi Media

Abdul Basit Alvi

INDIAN Godi Media has fuelled a narrative within India's media portraying him as a "dangerous" figure—not because of reckless aggression, but to his "bravery" and seemingly uncompromising leadership. His ability to operate discreetly, without seeking the limelight, is a "Field Marshal Phobia" evident in Indian Godi Media. It provides a revealing glimpse into the psychological and strategic dynamics that shape media discourse. The relentless, almost obsessive coverage of Pakistan's Field Marshal on Indian news channels—especially the television for the developed and educated—signals anxiety that transcends media critique or political debate. It manifests as a collective unease, an unexpected palpable apprehension about his influence, strategic prowess, and his role in defining Pakistan's regional posture.

These televised debates reveal more than just surface-level political opinions; they uncover a deeper strategic narrative. The Field Marshal is not just a symbol of Pakistan's military dominance and geopolitical stance in ways that challenge India's regional calculations. The frequent descriptions of him as "brave," "bold," and "before him" reflect a shifting narrative of the shift in power, influence, and leadership. His military bearing, resilience, and strategic vision are highlighted by the media, and his sweeping reforms across the military and intelligence agencies are framed as a visionary leader who has significantly transformed Pakistan's defense landscape. The "Field Marshal Phobia" displayed by Indian Godi Media clearly reveals the media's fear of the unknown, the unfamiliar, and the unpredictable. The figure of Munir's strategic and unconventional tactics to gain strategic advantages. These qualities and frequent pronouncements of his strategic shrewdness, particularly in contested areas, have inspired admiration and respect among Indian media.

Additionally, many Indian commentators note that Munir's approach is marked by greater ideological and strategic sophistication compared to former Pakistani military leaders. They highlight his control over intelligence networks, influence within Pakistan's political system, and his hybrid leadership style, blending conventional and unconventional tactics to gain strategic advantages. These qualities and frequent pronouncements of his strategic shrewdness, particularly in contested areas, have inspired admiration and respect among Indian media.

The perceived threat is further amplified by the repeated notion that Munir is not merely a military commander but a long-term strategist shaping Pakistan's regional posture with unprecedented coherence. His legacy thus diminishes his legacy, this fear underpins the media's continued respect and influence over military commands, both within Pakistan and across the broader South Asian geopolitical arena. His leadership is seen as a beacon of hope and stability in a region frequently fraught with tension and conflict.

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For the Pakistani public, this situation is a source of immense pride and reassurance.

In a region where perception can be as influential as reality, the fact that Indian media is so obsessed with him and their visible irritation with his influence all highlight a leader who has successfully unsettled the traditional balance of regional power.

What we see unfolding in Indian media is not merely political commentary; it is an attempt to create a strategic response to a leader who has changed the game. For Pakistani media, this situation is a source of immense pride and reassurance.

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