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1. EU launches 'Global Gateway' to counter China's Belt and Road

https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-launches-global-gateway-to-counter-chinas-belt-and-road/?fbclid=IwAR26qBHj22MdLHvszDcUTWYO9buHLveWa4GR_hQCyMpmMtXu3Je9olePHAk

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The European Union will launch "Global Gateway" as a scheme to compete with China's Belt and Road Initiative — the massive, geopolitically influential network of infrastructure and transport investments that Beijing uses to link its exporters to western markets.

"We want to turn Global Gateway into a trusted brand around the world," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said during the annual State of the Union address Wednesday. "We will build Global Gateway partnerships with countries around the world. We want investments in quality infrastructure, connecting goods, people and services around the world."

She didn't shy away from her primary target — China, which has been criticized by the West for extending its strategic reach and creating debt dependence through its multibillion-dollar infrastructure and investment scheme.

"We want to create links and not dependencies!" von der Leyen said. "We are good at financing roads. But it does not make sense for Europe to build a perfect road between a Chinese-owned copper mine and a Chinese-owned harbour. We have to get smarter when it comes to these kinds of investments," she said.

A priority, she added, would be for the EU to discuss connectivity projects with Africa during a regional summit in February. Her remarks come three months after the 27 EU leaders tasked her team to come up with a name and a logo for the EU's new plan against the Belt and Road.

2. India's concern on China helping Afghanistan under Belt and Road Initiative inappropriate: Taliban

Scroll Staff

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<https://scroll.in/latest/1005478/indias-concern-on-china-helping-afghanistan-under-belt-and-road-initiative-inappropriate-taliban>

Taliban Spokesperson [Suhail Shaheen](#) on Tuesday said that India's apprehensions about China helping Afghanistan under its Belt and Road Initiative are "inappropriate", *The Global Times* reported on Tuesday.

Till March, 139 countries had entered into [agreements with China](#), which has helped these nations in building roads and ports under the Belt and Road Initiative, according to the Council on Foreign Relations.

India has been critical of the Belt and Road Initiative as one of its components, the [China-Pakistan Economic Corridor](#), passes through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

In an interview to *The Global Times*, Shaheen said that there was nothing wrong in China helping Afghanistan under the project.

"Some of India's concerns aren't appropriate, neither are they plausible," he said. "While having ended occupation, we need to focus on the reconstruction of Afghanistan...And now China has come forward to help us with the construction of Afghanistan to create jobs for our people. So what is wrong with that? They [India], rather than us, should reconsider their position."

Shaheen claimed that the Taliban was working in the interest of its people.

"It is important for us that every relationship we form with other

counties is on the basis of our mutual self-interests in order for it to be a win-win situation,” he said.

Shaheen said that Taliban regimes’ priority was to focus on creating jobs and raising the standard of living of the people of Afghanistan.

“[Priority is] to focus on the construction of Afghanistan and the rehabilitation of the country, and also to maintain stability all over the country, while working toward peaceful coexistence among our people,” the Taliban spokesperson said.

More Afghans register for extension of visa in India

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on Wednesday said that 736 Afghans had registered in India between August 1 and September 11, seeking extension of visas and other assistance, PTI reported.

“Basic assistance such as food, cash-based assistance and core relief items are being provided to the most vulnerable new arrivals from Afghanistan and those already in India,” the UN body said.

The UN body has formed an Afghanistan emergency cell and created a dedicated help page on its website to keep the Afghans informed of the registrations and assistance available.

“Additional 24/7 helplines were established to answer queries around the clock and direct engagement with Afghan communities scaled up,” the agency said. “Over 130 calls are received per day, mainly enquiring about assistance and registration.”

3. 商务部:前8个月我国对“一带一路”沿线国家投资合作取得积极进展

<http://news.cri.cn/baidunews-eco/20210916/750ed386-562b-29b3-5668-c301a1fdd7db.html>

商务部今天（9月16日）召开新闻发布会，通报近期商务领域重点工作情况。

商务部今天发布的数据显示：前8个月，我国对“一带一路”沿线国家投资合作取得积极进展，多个领域对外投资持续增长。

1—8月，我国对外非金融类直接投资4597.1亿元人民币，同比下降4.3%。

对外承

包工程完成营业额5975.8亿元人民币，同比增长7.1%

1—8月，我国对“一带一路”沿线国家非金融类直接投资128.9亿美元，同比增长9.2%，占同期总额的18.1%，较上年同期上升0.9个百分点。在沿线国家新签承包工程合同额708.9亿美元，完成营业额534.4亿美元，分别占同期总额的51%、57.9%。

多个领域对外投资持续增长。1—8月，流向批发和零售业同比增长13.5%；信息传输/软件和信息技术服务业同比增长33.2%。流向科学研究和技术服务业、制造业、交通运输等领域的投资也呈增长态势。

1—8月，地方企业对外非金融类直接投资551.1亿美元，同比增长11.9%，占同期对外投资总额的近八成。

对外承包工程新签大项目增多。1—8月，新签合同额在5000万美元以上的项目509个，较上年同期增加47个，占新签合同总额的85.2%，主要集中在交通运输等领域。

4. 聚焦 | “一带一路”八周年，互联互通取得哪些进展？

[中国一带一路网](#)

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<https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1710971317432538737&wfr=spider&for=pc>

数据显示，中欧班列已累计开行超4万列，打通73条运行线路，通达欧洲23个国家的160多个城市，运输货品达5万多种，有力保障了国际产业链供应链稳定畅通，促进区域共同发展，为共建“一带一路”合作增添更多动能。

今年以来，中欧班列开行继续保持强劲增长态势。截至8月底，累计开行10030列，发送集装箱96.4万标箱，同比分别增长32%、40%，往返综合重箱率达97.9%，较去年提前2个月实现年度开行破万列。

国铁集团货运部负责人介绍，自2011年首次开行以来，中欧班列辐射范围不断扩大，货物品类逐步拓展，构建了一条全天候、大运量、绿色低碳的陆上运输新通道，有力推动了“一带一路”沿线设施联通、贸易畅通。新冠肺炎疫情发生以来，截至今年6月底，中欧班列累计向欧洲发运1232万件、9.6万吨防疫物资，推动了民心相通。

八年来，“一带一路”国际互联互通水平持续提升。目前，“六廊六路多国多港”架构基本形成，一大批合作项目落地生根，基础设施联通不断深化。

一方面，铁路合作项目取得重大进展。我国充分发挥铁路技术和建设优势，加大与“一带一路”沿线国家和地区的合作。亚吉铁路、蒙内铁路、拉伊铁路、中俄同江铁路大桥建成通车，中老铁路、中泰铁路、匈塞铁路、雅万高铁等项目扎实推进。巴基斯坦1号铁路干线升级改造、中吉乌铁路等项目前期研究正在积极推进。

另一方面，加快推动与周边国家公路联通。昆曼公路、昆明—河内—海防高速公路、中巴经济走廊“两大”公路全线通车，中俄黑河公路大桥完工，“双西公路”（中国西部—欧洲西部）建设稳步推进。以共建“一带一路”为合作平台，我国与19个国家签署了22项双边、多边政府间国际道路运输便利化协定。中蒙俄、中吉乌、中塔乌、中俄（大连—新西伯利亚）、中越实现国际道路直达运输试运行，国际道路运输辐射范围进一步拓展。

此外，我国还开通泛太平洋、欧洲、泛大西洋、亚太、东南亚及南亚等集装箱航线，初步形成国际物流主通道网络，以国际海运、航空货运、铁路联运为主的国际物流供应链服务体系逐步形成，“一带一路”沿线国家和地区联系更加紧密。

经过多年努力，我国与“一带一路”沿线国家的交通合作制度更加健全，规则逐步连通，以此为依托，“一带一路”建设长期稳定推进可期。

在中国与140个国家和32个国际组织签署的200多份共建“一带一路”合作文

件中，大部分都涉及交通互联互通合作。

中国联合相关国家建立了中巴经济走廊交通基础设施工作组、中缅经济走廊交通合作工作组等“一带一路”交通合作机制，共同编制了《大湄公河次区域交通战略2030》《中亚区域经济合作交通战略2030》《中亚区域经济合作铁路发展战略2030》《中巴经济走廊远景规划交通规划（2014-2030）》等文件，共同谋划区域交通发展规划，推动与相关国家现有规划的有效衔接。

近日，国家发展改革委正式印发《“十四五”推进西部陆海新通道高质量建设实施方案》，提出到2025年实现东中西三条通路持续强化，通道、港口和物流枢纽运营更加高效，对沿线经济和产业发展带动作用明显增强的总体目标，并从5方面明确了通道建设的阶段性目标任务。

届时，西部陆海新通道这个连接“一带”和“一路”的陆海联动通道将会发挥更大作用，“一带一路”建设将更加通畅。