

TAIWAN NEWSLETTER

President Tsai receives Belgian parliamentary delegation

Taiwan is committed to deepening its partnership with Belgium to foster regular cooperation and enhance mutual development, President Tsai Ing-wen said as she welcomed a Belgian parliamentary delegation at the Presidential Office in Taipei on October 18.

Tsai praised the growing ties and increased support from Belgium for Taiwan over recent years, citing the passage of resolutions at both the federal and regional levels, and the backing of Taiwan's international participation. She further noted the fruitful cooperation that has taken place between both sides in offshore wind infrastructure and the semiconductor industry, and expressed hope for establishing institutionalised cooperation in complementary areas



such as cybersecurity.

The eight-member cross-party Belgian group, which is on a 6-day visit, is led by Els Van Hoof, chair of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee and co-chair of the Belgium-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group. During her remarks, Van Hoof stressed the

shared common values as the foundation of the two countries' friendship. She further expressed concern at aggressive actions by the Chinese military around Taiwan, before stating that the group's visit was important to show that Taiwan does not stand alone against such threats.

Foreign Minister Wu looks to further collaboration with democracies

Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu called for democracies' unity to enhance economic resilience in the face of authoritarian coercion, as he addressed the 27th Forum 2000 Conference via a pre-recorded video, October 16.

During his remarks, Wu warned that authoritarian regimes are weaponising economic vulnerabilities to expand their power, and stated that only through de-risking and collaboration can democracies ad-

dress such coercion. In this regard, the Minister cited the EU's de-risking approach and the G7 Leaders' May statement, as well as the New Southbound Policy and the Taiwan-Europe connectivity enhancement program.

Wu also reiterated that despite being faced by authoritarian expansion, Taiwan maintains its stance of non-provocation and is open to peaceful dialogue between both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

MOFA thanks UK, Sweden for backing cross-strait peace and stability

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) expressed sincere appreciation by the government and people of Taiwan, October 14, in response to the support for peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait contained in the recent strategic partnership signed by British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson.

In the partnership declaration, both countries recognised that the prosperity and security of the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions are inextricably linked, and state their intentions to bolster partner-

ships between Europe and the Indo-Pacific. The two partners also pledged to continue cooperating closely on responding to China as a systemic challenge, and reaffirmed the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, as well as throughout the wider Asia-Pacific.

Responding to the announcement, MOFA noted that both Prime Ministers have publicly highlighted the importance of cross-strait peace and stability on numerous occasions this year, and pledged to continue to deepen cooperation with democratic partners in the international community.

Taiwan opens economic and cultural office in Milan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) celebrated the opening of a new Taipei economic and cultural office in Milan, October 16, as marking a milestone in the Taiwan-Italy relationship.

Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu delivered remarks at the reception held to celebrate the event via a pre-recorded message, during which he praised the expanding bilateral exchanges between both sides over recent years. Noting that Italy is Taiwan's third largest trading partner in the EU, Wu further expressed his anticipation that the new office will bring trade exchanges to a new height.



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