



China strengthens its economic and trade cooperation with Britain

Chinese Vice Premier Hu Chunhua told visiting British Secretary of International Trade Fox on Thursday that China hopes to "comprehensively strengthen" its economic and trade cooperation with Britain, state media reported.

Britain has sent a strong signal to Chinese companies that it is fully open to Chinese companies as it prepares to leave Europe next year, and that China is one of the countries that Britain is willing to sign a post-European free trade agreement.

Last month, China proposed negotiations with the United Kingdom on the free trade agreement after Britain's withdrawal from Europe.

Xinhua reported that Hu told Fox that China attaches great importance to Sino-British relations and always attaches great importance to the development of Sino-British relations.

He also said that China is willing to work with Britain to firmly safeguard the multilateral trading system, comprehensively strengthen economic and trade cooperation, and promote the sustained, healthy and stable development of Sino-British relations.

The report did not give more details.

Although a trade agreement with China would be a political victory for the British government, formal negotiations would not begin until Britain formally withdrew from the EU. Free trade negotiations usually take years to produce results.