



Portugal's Belt & Road Think Thank

NEWSLETTER OF NSRF NEW SILK ROAD FRIENDS ASSOCIATION Events

From January to December of 2024

Participation in the Network Lunch among Participants of Thematic Seminars held in China in 2023

On January 18th, at the invitation of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, NSRF – under the representation of the President of the Board, Professor Fernanda Ilhéu, and the General Secretary, Dr^a. Carla Melo – was present at the Network Lunch between Participants of the Thematic Seminars held in China in 2023, recalling NSRF's participation in the Belt and Road CEO Conference Seminars and Seminar for China Issue Experts of B&R Countries.



Organization of the 2024 Chinese New Year of the Dragon Celebration Network Lunch

It was on February 23rd that NSRF held the Chinese New Year Celebration Network Lunch, which took place at The Old House Restaurant, and which featured Professor Wang Suoying as a speaker. Cultural and linguistic themes were addressed, and a space was created for sharing knowledge and connection between all participants.



Co-organization with the Lusófona University of Porto of the China-European Relations Conference

It was on March 19th that the China-European Relations Conference took place at the Universidade Lusófona do Porto (ULP), in person and online format, which included the participation of speakers, national and foreign, from different areas of knowledge, who provided participants with an excellent overview of the current situation of Sino-European relations, its challenges and opportunities.



Participation in the “Seminar for Portuguese Deputies visiting China”

At the invitation of the Economic Section of the Chinese Embassy in Portugal, the President of the Board, of Directors, Professor Fernanda Ilhéu, participated in the “Seminar for Portuguese Deputies visiting China”, which took place between the 12th and 22nd of March, in Zhuhai, Macau and Shenzhen.



Participation in the Conference "25 Years of Macau's transition to the People's Republic of China - 35 Years of the Instituto do Oriente (IO-ISCSP) - 45 Years of Portugal-China Diplomatic Relations"

At the invitation of the Instituto do Oriente (IO-ISCSP), NSRF was present at the Conference “25 Years of the transition of Macau to the People's Republic of China – 35 Years of the Instituto do Oriente (IO-ISCSP) – 45 Years of Diplomatic Relations Portugal- China”, with the participation of the President of NSFR, Professor Fernanda Ilhéu, and Vice-President Bernardo Mendia in the Panel “Future of Portugal-China Cooperation”.



Organization of the Network Lunch “Chinese, American and European Proposals for the Development of Emerging Countries”

It was on the 29th of May that the Network Lunch “Chinese, American and European Proposals for the Development of Emerging Countries” took place at the Grémio Literário Restaurant, with the participation, as speaker, of Vice-President Bernardo Mendia who, in a systematic and informative way, he presented to those present the main characteristics of each of the initiatives, creating a moment of discussion about their feasibility.



Participation in the Seminar “China-Portugal Relations in the New Context”

On May 16th, at the invitation of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the President of the Board of Directors, Professor Fernanda Ilhéu, participated in the Seminar “China-Portugal Relations in the New Context”, where a group of experts in Sino-Portugal relations gathered to discuss cooperation opportunities in the current international situation. The President of the Board of Directors also had the opportunity to do an intervention entitled “45 Years of Portugal-China Relations”, presenting her perspective on the development of Sino-Portuguese relations, their challenges and opportunities.

Co-organization with the Macau Scientific and Cultural Center, the Macau Pharmacology Association and the Conference School of Traditional Chinese Medicine “Traditional Chinese Medicine Industry Modernization” Conference

On June 18th, following a visit by the Macau Pharmacology Association, NSRF co-organized, with the Macau Scientific and Cultural Center (CCCM) and the School of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ESMTC), the Conference “Traditional Chinese Medicine Industry Modernization” where we sought to create direct contact between researchers, practitioners and industrialists working on Traditional Chinese Medicine and its modernization. With speakers from different areas of knowledge, it was possible to create a space for sharing knowledge and bringing Portugal and China closer together in this new, and important, area of cooperation.



Participation in the “Seminar on Sino-Portuguese Cooperation in the Foreign Market”

Between the 4th and 18th of June, Associate Diogo Cardoso was in China, in Shanghai and Hangzhou, as the NSRF representative at the “Seminar on Sino-Portuguese Cooperation in the Foreign Market”, where he had the opportunity to attend seminars, hold official visits and discuss with the other participants the current situation of Sino-Portuguese relations on the foreign market, both in terms of opportunities and challenges. During this period, Associate Diogo Cardoso also met with NSRF’ Friend Eng^o João Graça Gomes at the Shanghai Consulate, where views were exchanged on future cooperation on various topics.



Organization of the Lunch-Network “EU-China Cooperation in Scientific Research”

It was on the 9th of July that the Network Lunch “EU-China Cooperation in Scientific Research” took place at the Círculo Eça de Queiroz Restaurant, attended by Eng. João Graça Gomes as speaker. It was possible to understand not only the current state of Sino-European relations in the context of research, in general, but also in certain areas of common interest, such as energy and renewable resources.



Participation in the ALACIP Congress – Latin American Congress of Political Science

On July 19th, NSRF participated in the ALACIP Congress, at ISCTE, having presented its Panel “Political Economy and Economic Policies: The Importance of the Belt and Road Initiative and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road in the Development of Latin America”, which was moderated by the President of the Association, Professor Fernanda Ilhéu, and interventions by the General Secretary, Dr^a. Carla Melo and Associates Professor Doctor Paulo Duarte, Professor Doctor Maria Sousa Galito and Dr. Diogo Cardoso (in coordination with Professor Teresa de Almeida e Silva).



Organization, with the Confucius Institute of the University of Aveiro, of the “Belt and Road Conferences: Portugal-China Dialogues on Tourism”

On October 8th, in cooperation with the Confucius Institute of the University of Aveiro (ICUA), another edition of the Belt and Road Conferences took place, focused on Sino-Portuguese relations in the field of Tourism. An attempt was made to present different points of view on this important area of cooperation, so the Conference included interventions by academics, representatives of tourist organizations and aerial engineers, which provided those present with a comprehensive analysis of the topic.



Participation at the *China in Sight Global Insight Forum 2024*

Between the 19th and 26th of November, NSRF, represented by Associate Professor Albertina Dias, participated in the *China in Sight Global Insight Forum 2024*, which took place in Guiyang, in the province of Guizhou. Not only was it possible to publicize the work of NSRF, but the Cooperation Protocol with Silk Road Think Tank was also formally signed, which will bring new cooperation opportunities for NSRF, in its work to promote and disseminate knowledge of relations Sino-Portuguese relations within the scope of the Belt and Road Initiative.



Organization of the Network Lunch “Importance of Macau in Portugal-China Relations: Historical Retrospective and Future Perspectives”

It was on November 21st that the Portuguese Air Force Association (AFAP) hosted the Network Lunch “Importance of Macau in Portugal-China Relations: Historical Retrospective and Future Perspectives”, where Ambassador Garcia Leandro held an intervention elucidative and comprehensive about the importance of Macau in Sino-Portuguese relations, both in their shared past and in the future, having even provided sources bibliographical information for those most interested. A space for discussion, exchange of impressions and memories was created.



Commemorative Dinner of the 7th Anniversary of NSRF and the 25th Anniversary of the Macau Special Administrative Region

It was on December 18th, at the Mandarin Restaurant at the Estoril Casino, that the 7th Anniversary of NSRF and the 25th Anniversary of the Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR) were celebrated, where participants had the opportunity to hear the intervention of the Ambassador Pedro Catarino, entitled “The Transition Process of the Administration of Macau from Portugal to the People's Republic of China and the Future of Luso-Chinese Cooperation”, and a friendly message from the Lord Ambassador Zhao Bentang. It was a moment of double celebration, where a more informal space was created for sharing memories and where the future of Sino-Portuguese relations was discussed, the role of Macau and the relevance of NSRF's activity as a promoter of knowledge about Portugal-Portuguese relations.





BELT AND ROAD NEWS

China's Trade Balance with the World

In 2023, China recorded a trade surplus of USD 651.2 billion, which represented a decrease of USD 145.73 billion compared to 2022 and an increase of USD 47.39 billion compared to 2021. Although it is not yet possible to access definitive data for the year 2024, official data published by China confirm that the Chinese trade balance has grown 5%, reaching a total value of 598 billion USD. Exports grew, in annual terms, by a total of 7.1%, while imports grew by 2.3%.

Year	Exports (USD Tr)	Imports (USD Tr)
2019	2,783.08	2,579.81
2020	2,870.58	2,447.05
2021	3,710.27	3,106.46
2022	3,968.49	3,171.56
2023	3,760.16	3,108.96

Sources: [China Statistical Yearbook](#) and [Global Times](#)

China's Trade Balance with Portugal

In 2023, Portugal remained in third place as the Portuguese Speaking Country (PLP) with which China traded the most. The same happened in 2022 and 2021, and it is important to mention that it was in 2021 that Portugal's largest trade deficit with China was confirmed, with a difference of 31,867.52 billion USD between Chinese exports and imports. In 2023 there will be a reduction in the trade deficit, with a difference of 12 025.50 billion USD.

Year	Exports (USD Bi)	Imports (USD Bi)
2019	37 691,41	21 381,55
2020	42 060,23	21 021,83
2021	53 969,40	22 101,88
2022	41 321,10	24 937,80
2023	44 145,90	32 120,40

Source: [Fórum Macau](#)

A new era: Xi's plans for China-Africa partnership development

Speaking to the leaders, Xi praised the China-Africa relationship as being "at its best in history" after nearly 70 years of development and committed to enhancing the overall ties to create "an all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era."

Source: [AfricaNews](#)

China-Portugal Relations

China announced this Monday that it will extend the visa exemption policy to Portuguese citizens, for stays of up to 15 days, thus including Portugal on a list that already covers 16 other European countries.

Source: [Público](#)

Xi Jinping begins visit to Europe

Chinese President Xi Jinping begins his first visit to Europe since the Covid-19 pandemic in France this Monday, with trips also to Hungary and Serbia, and an agenda that should include Ukraine, trade and investments.

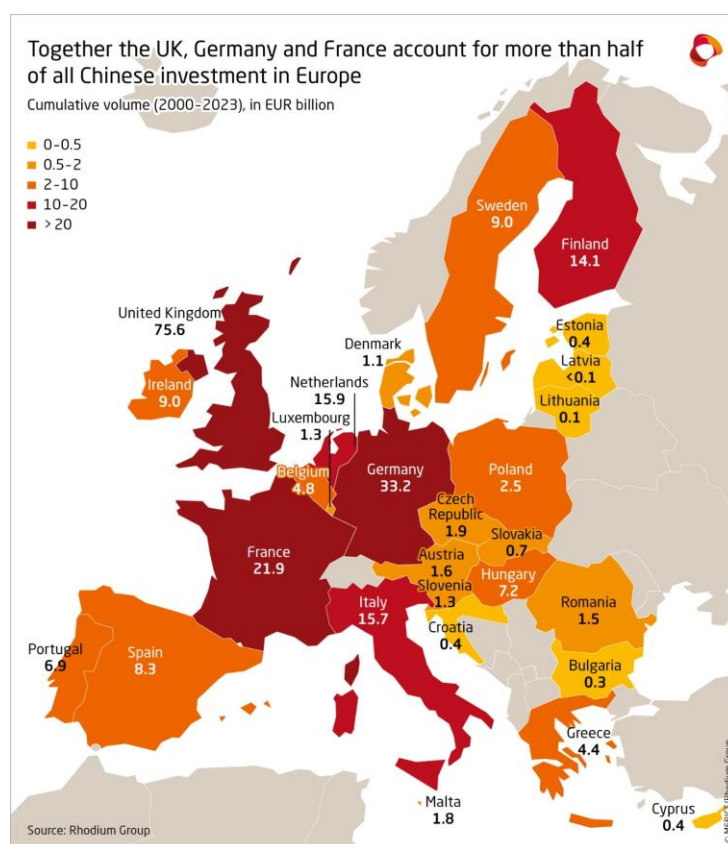
Source: [RTP Notícias](#)

Analysis of China's Main Economic Indicators in 2024

In 2024, the Chinese economy recorded GDP growth of between 2.4% and 2.8%, reflecting a moderate recovery. Domestic consumption was responsible for 77% of the increase, while industrial production grew 4.4%, with emphasis on the high-technology sector, which increased 7.5%. In foreign trade, exports totaled 24.8 billion yuan and imports 21.2 billion, resulting in a positive balance of 3.7 billion yuan. These results reaffirm China's position as the world's second largest economy.

Source: [Rhodium Group](#)

Chinese FDI in Europe: 2023 Update



Source: [MERICS](#)

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