

Newsletter (Issue 013/ 2023)

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Like-minded countries condemned China's combat readiness patrol in areas around Taiwan

China conducted its combat readiness patrol and military exercises in areas around Taiwan from April 8 to 10. **During the three-day military operation, 232 Chinese military aircraft and 32 warships were detected around Taiwan**, including a swarm of jet fighters launched from one of its aircraft carrier Shandong.

In response to China's malicious military exercises which posed a serious threat to Taiwan's security and undermined peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and in the Indo-Pacific, **the US has consistently urged China to exercise restraint and to not change the status quo**. It also stressed that the United States has ample resources and capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region to ensure peace and stability and to honor its security commitments.

Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Commission Nabila Massrali stressed the European Union's concern about People's Liberation Army activities in the Taiwan Strait and around Taiwan. She stated that China should not change the status quo unilaterally or by the use of force.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen underscored the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and stated that any weakening of regional stability in Asia, the fastest-growing region in the world, would affect global security, the free flow of trade, and the European Union's interests.

The international community has continued to speak up for Taiwan in response to China's willful and provocative military drills that undermine security across the Taiwan Strait. The executive and legislative branches of government and friends from various sectors of society of over 42 like-minded countries, friendly nations, and diplomatic allies have voiced support for Taiwan.

2	<p align="center">Canadian House of Commons issued report supporting Taiwan’s international participation</p>
	<p>The Canadian House of Commons published a momentous report on March 30 entitled “Canada and Taiwan: A Strong Relationship in Turbulent Times.” The report includes a list that covers wide cooperation with Taiwan and supports of Taiwan’s international participation as the followings,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. offering unwavering commitment that the future of Taiwan must only be the decision of the people of Taiwan ; 2. supporting increased parliamentary delegations and diplomatic visits to Taiwan. 3. Supporting Taiwan’s meaningful participation in multilateral organizations such as UN, ICAO and WHO ; 4. advancing the economic empowerment of Indigenous peoples ; 5. exploring cooperation with Taiwan to support international development ; 6. learning from Taiwan’s experience in addressing disinformation and foreign interference and collaborating with Taiwan's semiconductor industry ; 7. pursuing a critical minerals cooperation agreement with Taiwan ; 8. negotiating/signing a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection agreement with Taiwan ; 9. assessing Taiwan’s application to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and supporting Canadian industries’ overseas markets with Taiwan ; 10. working with its allies to support the peaceful status quo in the Taiwan Strait ; 11. calling on the People’s Republic of China to refrain from escalating its military exercises in Taiwan Strait
3	<p align="center">Czech delegation signed 11 MOUs and statements during visit to Taiwan</p> <p>Czech delegation led by speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Markéta Pekarová Adamová signed 11 cooperation MOUs and a statement of parliamentary friendship between the two countries during its visit to Taiwan. Among the 11 MOUs, 7 are signed among business leaders and academics with their Taiwanese counterparts.</p> <p>During its visit, Minister of National Development Council Kung mentioned that many applications have been received since Taiwan established the US\$200 million CEE Fund, and a Czech project involving a virtual reality developer of up to US\$5 million has recently been approved. He also said that Taiwania Capital, managing agency for the CEE Fund, will again send representatives to the Czech Republic in April to seek business opportunities, which will pave the way for deeper bilateral</p>

	investment, economic, and trade cooperation.
4	New Zealand launched All-Party Parliamentary Group on Taiwan
	<p>The first meeting of the New Zealand All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Taiwan took place on March 29. Twenty-two parliamentarians from various parties joined the newly formed APPG, and the launch was also attended by 13 other MPs of different political affiliations.</p> <p>The launch of the APPG marked an important milestone in ties between Taiwan and New Zealand since it coincided with the 10th anniversary of the Taiwan-New Zealand economic cooperation agreement (ANZTEC) and two countries are both founding members of the Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement.</p>
5	Swedish-Taiwanese Parliamentarian Association condemned China's recent military exercises
	<p>The Swedish-Taiwanese Parliamentarian Association recently made a statement on April 13 condemning China's recent military exercises against Taiwan. The statement emphasized the importance of maintaining the status quo of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and called on the international community to support Taiwan's efforts to resolve disputes peacefully.</p> <p>The Swedish Parliament recently passed a resolution that aims at deepening its relations with Taiwan, and Sweden's new Prime Minister also emphasized the importance of maintaining peace across the Taiwan Strait in its policy report last November, showing great support to like-minded countries as Taiwan.</p>
6	Norway supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in WHA
	<p>In an inquiry to a media outlet on April 3, Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Erling Rimestad expressed his support to Taiwan's meaningful participation in WHA this year, adding that WHA is an inclusive occasion for international health and sanitary issues, and Norway supports Taiwan's role in it.</p>