



China issues 1st chemical map of eastern seabed

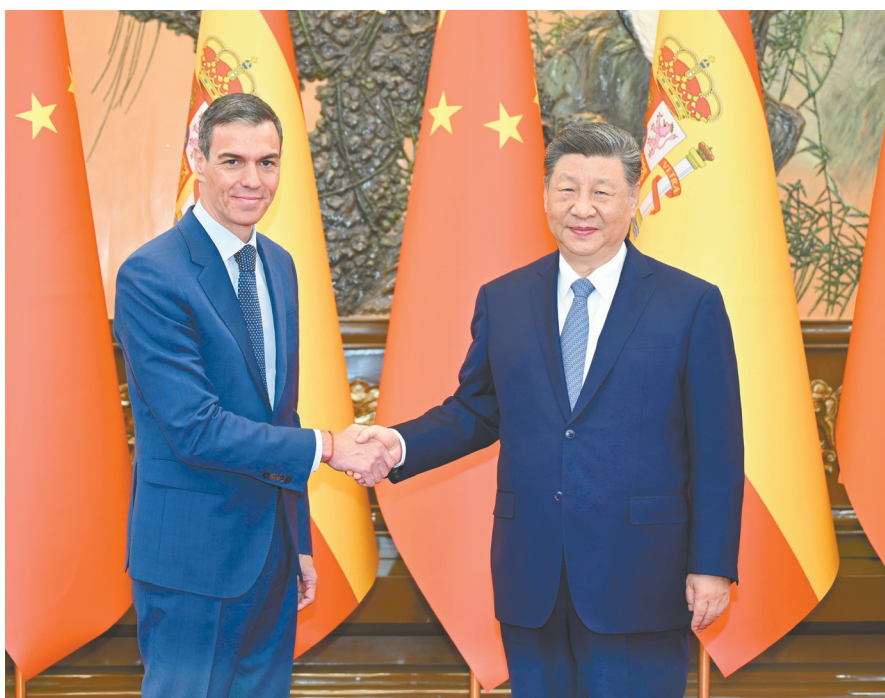
China has for the first time officially released a detailed "seabed chemical element map" of its eastern waters, presenting the results of nearly 20 years of surveys **4**

China's foreign trade off to strong start in 2026

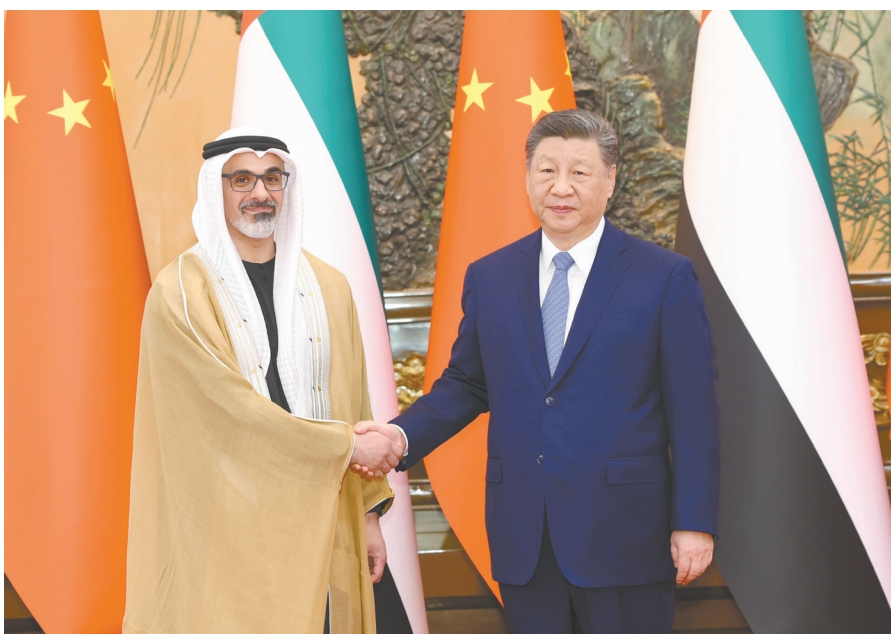
China's foreign trade exceeded 11 trillion yuan for first time in the first quarter, with the quarterly growth rate reaching a five-year high, customs data showed **11**

Chinese new-energy firms see a surge in overseas demand

The first quarter of 2026 has turned out to be quite a busy season for Chinese new energy firms in overseas markets, ranging from PV, energy storage, to new energy equipment **13**



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on April 14, 2026. Photo: Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, at the Great Hall of the People on April 14, 2026. Photo: Xinhua

► Intensive high-level exchanges crucial for mutual perceptions: Chinese expert

China, Spain should strengthen co-op to oppose 'law of the jungle': Xi

By Zhang Yuying, Liu Yang and Bai Yunyi

President Xi Jinping on Tuesday stressed the need for China and Spain to strengthen cooperation in fields including trade, new energy and intelligent economy, and to encourage exchanges in culture, education, scientific research and sports, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

Xi made the remarks when meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, who is on an official visit to China, his fourth in four years.

China and Spain should strengthen cooperation to oppose a return of the world to "the law of the jungle," Xi said. Noting the world today is in turmoil, confronted with the contest between the rule of law and the rule of power, Xi

called on both China and Spain to jointly defend true multilateralism.

Chinese analysts emphasize that high-level diplomacy between Beijing and Madrid does far more than foster mutual goodwill – it injects vital certainty into an unpredictable international landscape. By forging a definitive model of mutually beneficial cooperation, the China-Spain partnership is sketching a constructive blueprint for broader China-European relations, in an era defined by geopolitical tremors, analysts said.

High-level exchanges

Xi noted that despite a shifting and turbulent international landscape, China and Spain have maintained a steady relationship, forging ties with strategic determination, and

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► Proposal rooted in China's international vision, Global Security Initiative: expert

Xi meets Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, makes four-point proposal on Middle East peace

By Feng Fan and Dong Feng

President Xi Jinping met with Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), in Beijing on Tuesday. Xi said the UAE is China's comprehensive strategic partner, and that China has always attached great importance to developing relations with the UAE, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

Chinese experts noted that the Crown Prince's visit to China aims to enhance bilateral ties and boost China-UAE cooperation. They also noted that the meeting, which took place at a profoundly precarious moment for the Middle East, with tensions spiraling following the launch of a joint US-Israeli military operation against Iran, could provide a constructive set of principles for addressing current regional challenges.

During their meetings, the two sides exchanged views on the current situation in the Middle East and the Gulf region. Xi emphasized China's position on promoting peace and talks, and reaffirmed that China will continue to play a constructive role in this regard, according to Xinhua.

Xi put forward a four-point proposal on promoting peace and stability in the Middle East.

Xi called for adherence to the principle of peaceful coexistence. It is imperative to promote the building of a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security architecture for the Middle East and the Gulf region, he noted.

He urged adherence to the principle of national sovereignty. He said the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of countries in the Middle East and

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China, Spain urged to enhance cooperation for more fruitful results

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that an important lesson learned is the significance of making correct decisions based on common interests, Xinhua reported.

Facts have proved that deepening cooperation is in the interests of the two peoples, conforms to the overarching trend of the times, and enhances the strength and confidence of both sides in following a path of independence and self-reliance, Xi said.

Sanchez said that Spain opposes a “new Cold War,” decoupling and severing of supply chains, and supports Europe and China in enhancing communication, mutual understanding and cooperation, per Xinhua.

After the meeting, Sanchez posted on his official X account that the partnership between Spain and China has been further strengthened through this official visit. “In an increasingly uncertain world, Spain is committed to an EU-China relationship based on trust, dialogue and stability. We must continue moving toward a multipolar order built on respect and pragmatism,” the Spanish prime minister wrote.

Jiang Feng, a researcher at Shanghai International Studies University and president of the Shanghai Regional Studies Association, told the Global Times on Tuesday that frequent high-level exchanges between China and Spain anchor bilateral ties and are crucial for fostering positive mutual perceptions at strategic level.

Dong Yifan, an associate researcher at the Institute of Country and Regional Studies at Beijing Language and Culture University, echoed Jiang’s view, saying that Spain has stepped up communica-

tion with China on a wide range of strategic issues, further enhancing the stability and certainty of China-Spain relations.

A positive example

Sanchez’s China visit not only carries strategic significance, but also sheds light on concrete cooperation fields, as his itinerary highlighted economic, trade and sci-tech cooperation.

Sanchez made a visit to Tsinghua University on Monday, where he acknowledged some issues in China-EU trade in a speech, but placed greater emphasis on the need for mutual understanding and cooperation between the two sides, according to media reports.

After meeting with representatives from Chinese companies on Tuesday, Sanchez wrote on his official X account that “On my fourth trip to China, I note that more and more Chinese companies are seeing Spain as an attractive destination for investment. We offer stability, predictability and trust. Today in Beijing, I met with 10 major companies and conveyed to them that Spain is committed to projects that create local jobs, strengthen our productive capacity, and contribute to innovation and knowledge transfer.”

Jian Junbo, director of the Center for China-Europe Relations at Fudan University’s Institute of International Studies, told the Global Times that these enterprises are mostly concentrated in the new-energy vehicle (NEV) industry chain, new-energy equipment and intelligent technology sectors. It is believed that China and Spain will enjoy even broader cooperation opportunities

in these fields in the future.

Ding Chun, director of the Center for European Studies at Fudan University, told the Global Times on Tuesday that China-Spain cooperation has exemplar effects for China-EU relations, which is of great importance amid global changes and turmoil.

Several international media outlets observed that Sanchez’s visit coincided with growing chaos in the Middle East. For instance, AP said that Sanchez’s visit “comes at a complex geopolitical moment as European leaders try to influence an end to the US-Israeli war in Iran.”

Addressing the press on Tuesday in Beijing, Sanchez said that “Today, international law is being trampled upon, and not only that, but those of us who speak out against governments that are violating international law find ourselves, ironically and paradoxically, under threat from those very countries,” CCTV reported.

“Spain has maintained a consistent stance on foreign policy, and no one should take offense. “On the contrary, we must respect international law and uphold a rules-based international order in which the law of the strongest – and thus the law of the jungle – does not prevail,” Sanchez said.

In a volatile global landscape, China and Spain issued a joint call for genuine multilateralism and warned against “the law of the jungle” in international relations, providing an anchor of stabilization and a clear direction in a turbulent world, Pan Deng, a professor with the China University of Political Science and Law, told the Global Times.

A ‘reliable, stable and predictable’ China appeals to other countries

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the Gulf region should be fully respected, and the safety of personnel, facilities and institutions of all countries should be effectively safeguarded.

On adherence to the principle of international rule of law, Xi said the authority of international rule of law should be upheld to prevent the world from falling back into the law of the jungle, according to Xinhua.

He said development and security should be coordinated. All parties should work together to create a favorable environment for the development of countries in the Middle East and the Gulf region.

China’s proposal regarding the Middle East situation is rooted in China’s international vision and the Global Security Initiative, reflecting the country’s consistent stance of promoting peace and dialogue in response to the current regional crisis, Zhu Yongbiao, a Middle East affairs expert with Lanzhou University, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

Ding Long, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times on Tuesday that resorting to military means to undermine sovereignty has led to serious consequences and further deterioration of the Gulf situation. Political and diplomatic solutions, rather than force, are the only viable way forward, he said.

The meeting has also drawn attention from international media. In a report covering visits to China by leaders from Spain, Vietnam and UAE, Al Jazeera noted that “China has presented itself as the opposite of Washington – a reliable, stable and predictable partner. For many states, that message really appeals.”

Enhancing relations

Reuters noted that the visit by the crown prince of the largest of the UAE’s seven emirates underscores a long-term commitment to expand a growing economic corridor with China, building on momentum generated by the 2024 visit of Sheikh Khaled’s father.

Beyond discussing regional issues, a key objective of Sheikh Khaled’s visit is to deepen practical cooperation with China across multiple sectors, Ding said.

During the UAE-China Business Promotion Conference held in Beijing on Monday, the two countries signed 24 Memorandums of Understanding, according to the UAE Embassy.

At the conference, Chief Cargo Officer of Etihad Airways Stanislas Brun told the Global Times that while the current landscape of international trade is fraught with uncertainty, China stands out as a market characterized by “certainty and predictability.”

Logistics constitutes a vital component of international trade and is highly susceptible to geopolitical fluctuations. Thus, Etihad Airways seeks to strengthen its logistical ties with China to enhance this sense of “certainty.”

Mamoon Sbeih, a chief from advisory and advocacy communications consultancy firm, told the Global Times at the conference that China is one of the most important markets in the world, which is growing fast and remains stable. “It [China as a market] predicts clear stability, therefore, I see no other alternative to it.”

“Anybody who understands economics will want to build relationships with China,” Mamoon Sbeih said.

Successful launch



The Kinetica-1 Y12 carrier rocket carrying 8 satellites takes off from the Dongfeng commercial space innovation pilot zone in Northwest China on April 14, 2026 (See story on Page 4). Photo: cnsphoto