

► Events help both sides deepen mutual understanding: expert

China's defense delegation visits Europe for institutional dialogues

By Li Yawei

A delegation from China's defense ministry visited Europe from March 23 to 29 for a series of institutional dialogues, according to a statement posted by the Ministry of National Defense (MND) on its official website on Sunday, the Xinhua News Agency reported. Chinese experts said that military dialogues between China and Europe help the two sides deepen mutual understanding and dispel Europe's misunderstandings of China in military affairs, while further affirming that China serves as a stabilizer of world peace.

During the visit, the delegation participated in the 15th China-European Union dialogue on defense and security policy, the 9th China-NATO security policy dialogue, and the 15th China-Switzerland defense policy coordination dialogue, the report said.

Participants in the dialogues conducted in-depth exchanges on international and regional security situations and other issues of mutual concern.

The EU and China exchanged views

on security issues in Asia and the Pacific during the 15th annual consultations on security and defense on March 24, including in the East and South China Seas and the Taiwan Straits, according to the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Exchanges between the two sides on these key issues can help the EU understand China's red lines, and also make it recognize who the real instigator is behind the instability in the relevant waters and the Taiwan Straits, Zhang Junshe, a military affairs expert, told the Global Times on Sunday.

The two sides also exchanged views on hotspot issues in the international security landscape, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the situation in Iran, according to EEAS.

The previous round, the 14th China-European Union dialogue on defense and security policy was held in Beijing on March 11, 2024, where the leaders from the Office for International Military Cooperation of China's Central Military Commission (CMC) and the Peace, Security and Defence of the EEAS co-

chaired the dialogue.

The two sides exchanged views on China-Europe relations, China-EU defense cooperation, international and regional situations and other issues of common concern, according to a release posted by China's Ministry of National Defense on its website.

China's approach to engaging in international hotspot issues is to promote peace talks, said Zhang, adding that addressing relevant issues during the dialogue can once again manifest to the West China's adherence to international fairness and justice, affirming that China serves as a stabilizer of world peace.

Jian Junbo, director of the Center for China-Europe Relations at Fudan University's Institute of International Studies, told the Global Times on Sunday that China has consistently maintained military self-restraint in international conflicts. Should such content be touched upon in the dialogue, it could also dispel external biases regarding China's stance on the relevant conflict, thereby averting misunderstandings by European nations toward China, he added.

Details on Type 054B frigate revealed; AI algorithms reduce air defense blind spots

By Liang Rui and Liu Xuanzun

An official media report on Sunday disclosed multiple new developments regarding the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy's Type 054B guided-missile frigate *Qinzhou*. The report highlighted one of its most distinctive features: a next-generation architecture powered by advanced AI algorithms, enabling near-zero blind spots in air defense. Experts say the Type 054B represents a major leap in integrated combat capability and positions the vessel among the most advanced frigates in service today.

In the video released by the military channel of CCTV News on Sunday, Zhang Yunpeng, a crew member of the *Qinzhou*, described the ship's defining feature in one word: "new."

He noted that the platform incorporates enhanced stealth design, with antennas and sensors integrated and optimized to significantly reduce radar cross-section. The vessel is also built entirely with domestically produced components.

Compared with earlier ships, it boasts greater propulsion efficiency, lower fuel consumption, extended range, and an expanded combat radius.

In addition, the ship adopts a more streamlined command structure. This "flattened" command system enables more efficient and scientifically optimized interaction between commanders and weapon systems, improving overall operational responsiveness.

Zhang emphasized that the most notable advancement lies in the ship's new architectural framework.

Taking air defense as an example, he explained that stronger computing power and more advanced algorithms, combined with AI assistance, significantly reduce or even eliminate blind zones in detection and engagement in air defense combat. This allows weapons systems to achieve greater operational effectiveness.

The report also highlighted the vessel's main gun system, which represents a newer generation of naval artillery. During the current training cycle, the system has fired hundreds of rounds without a single malfunction, providing a solid foundation for the rapid generation of combat capability for the Type 054B.

► Securing fuel supplies

A guard is stationed outside a fuel depot to ensure the safe transportation of petrol and diesel on March 29, 2026 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Members of Border Guard Bangladesh have been deployed at sites across the country to prevent hoarding and ensure supply amid rising prices in the international market, according to media reports. Photo: VCG



Kiev eyes air defense deal with Gulf states, 'raising worries over intersection of two conflicts': expert

By Shen Sheng and Liang Rui

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky claimed Saturday that he had negotiated air defense agreements with Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates during his Middle East tour promoting anti-drone technologies. Kiev hopes to leverage the move to diversify sources of support rather than relying solely on external

security assistance, raising concerns that the two conflicts could increasingly intersect and mutually reinforce one another, a Chinese expert noted.

"Kiev has sought to leverage its expertise in downing Russian drones to help Gulf nations and has deployed anti-drone experts to the three countries Zelensky visited during his diplomatic tour," Al Jazeera reported on Saturday local time.

Qatar's defense ministry said in a statement on Saturday that Doha and Kiev have signed a defense cooperation agreement which includes the exchange of expertise in countering missiles and unmanned aerial systems. Reuters said.

The report by the Kyiv Post said on Sunday that details of what exactly Ukraine has agreed in the Gulf are slim.

In Saturday's report, The

New York Times described Ukraine as seeking to shift its image from a recipient of military aid to a supplier. "To some extent, this assessment makes sense, as Ukraine has seen an opportunity to bring the low-cost and practical technologies it developed during the war to the international market," Chinese military affairs expert Song Zhongping said.

Although the situation does

not necessarily mean the two conflicts will escalate into a single large-scale war, signs of "mutual entanglement" are emerging, said Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University.

