
CHINA URGES EUROPE TO STOP BACKING 'ILLEGAL' SOUTH CHINA SEA RULING TO AVOID HARMING TIES

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China's foreign ministry on Tuesday called the European side to **be** cautious in its words **and** deeds on the South China Sea and stop endorsing the "illegal ruling" to **have** impact on China-EU ties and cooperation.

"Europe is not a party to **the** South China Sea issue **and** has no right to comment **on** China's legitimate territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea," **a** ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a daily press briefing.

The comments came after **a** **statement** on Sunday by countries including some European nations said China's expansive maritime claims in the South **China** Sea **lack** **a** legal basis, followed by a relevant statement from the EU.

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