

China agrees to halve hybrid car exports to EU

12th October 2026



China has agreed to halve its exports of hybrid cars to the European Union over the next four years. The landmark deal followed intense negotiations, as both sides sought to avoid a harmful trade war. The EU's trade

commissioner, Maros Sefcovic, said the agreement could prevent millions of vehicles from entering the European market. He said: "This package proves that negotiations bring results." European carmakers have struggled to compete with cheaper Chinese imports. China's rise has raised fears of factory closures and job losses in Europe. Despite these concerns, Mr Sefcovic was pleased with the talks. He said the deal was "only a first step" towards more equitable trade relations.

China has rapidly become a major player in the global car industry. Chinese manufacturers have established a foothold in many markets worldwide. China's auto companies have become world leaders in electric and hybrid technology. Chinese cars are now very popular with motorists across the globe. Makers such as BYD, Xiaomi, and Geely offer competitively priced vehicles that are reliable and have good build quality. Consumers see these cars as more affordable alternatives to European and Japanese brands. Sales of Chinese cars in the EU now make up around 10 per cent of the new car market. In the UK, this figure has steadily risen to nearly 20 per cent.

Sources: dw.com / theguardian.com / ft.com

Writing

Chinese cars are the best value. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

China / exports / hybrid cars / European Union / negotiations / trade war / job losses / car industry / hybrid technology / motorists / consumers / Japanese brands / new car

True / False

- 1) China will halve exports of hybrid cars to the EU within the next year. T / F
- 2) Both China and the EU signed a deal to avert a possible trade war. T / F
- 3) The EU said millions of Chinese cars would not be arriving in the EU. T / F
- 4) Europe's carmakers are having problems because of cheap Chinese cars. T / F
- 5) The article says China is losing its foothold in the global auto industry. T / F
- 6) Consumers think Chinese cars are better value for money. T / F
- 7) Nearly 20% of new cars purchased in the EU are Chinese. T / F
- 8) Nearly 20% of new cars purchased in the UK are Chinese. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. landmark | a. participant |
| 2. sought | b. winding up |
| 3. prevent | c. number |
| 4. closure | d. milestone |
| 5. equitable | e. dependable |
| 6. player | f. fair |
| 7. motorists | g. tried to |
| 8. reliable | h. substitutes |
| 9. alternatives | i. stop |
| 10. figure | j. drivers |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What has made China rise as an economic power?
- c) What do you know about Chinese cars?
- d) Which country makes the best cars?
- e) Do you think Chinese cars will overtake Japanese and European ones?
- f) What other Chinese goods are changing the world?
- g) What will cars of the future be like?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the leader of the EU?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. both sides sought to avoid a | a. cheaper Chinese imports |
| 2. prevent millions of vehicles from entering | b. are reliable |
| 3. carmakers have struggled to compete with | c. and job losses |
| 4. raised fears of factory closures | d. in many markets |
| 5. a first step towards more equitable | e. the European market |
| 6. China has rapidly become a major player | f. risen |
| 7. manufacturers have established a foothold | g. in the global car industry |
| 8. Chinese cars are now very popular | h. trade relations |
| 9. competitively priced vehicles that | i. with motorists |
| 10. this figure has steadily | j. harmful trade war |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of hybrid cars?
- What do you think of Chinese cars?
- How difficult do you think trade negotiations are?
- How important is China to the world economy?
- How harmful are trade wars?
- What is wrong with countries importing cheaper goods?
- Can there ever be balanced trading between countries?
- When will petrol-driven cars disappear?

Spelling

- the drnmlaka deal
- millions of vleseihc
- ensitiotnaog bring results
- carmakers have glqdruset to compete
- raised fears of factory ussorcel
- towards more teeqluiba trade relations
- Chinese ftasnreucumar
- a fodthool in many markets worldwide
- very popular with tsrtomosi
- ttiyeolivpcem priced
- more affordable eaalnerivstt
- this figure has ilatydes risen

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. g	3. i	4. b	5. f
6. a	7. j	8. e	9. h	10. c

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	Over how long will China halve its exports of hybrid cars to the EU?
2.	What were China and the EU seeking to avoid?
3.	What did the EU commissioner say negotiations bring?
4.	What are European carmakers worried about besides job losses?
5.	What did the EU commissioner say the deal was a first step towards?
6.	What has China become a major player in?
7.	Where have Chinese manufacturers established a foothold?
8.	Who are Chinese cars popular with?
9.	What do consumers see Chinese cars as being?
10.	What percentage of new cars sold in the UK are Chinese?

Speaking – Cars

Rank these with your partner. Put the best cars at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| • Sedans | • Muscle cars |
| • Hatchbacks | • Supercars |
| • SUVs | • Minivans |
| • Sports cars | • Convertibles |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 T	4 T	5 F	6 T	7 F	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.