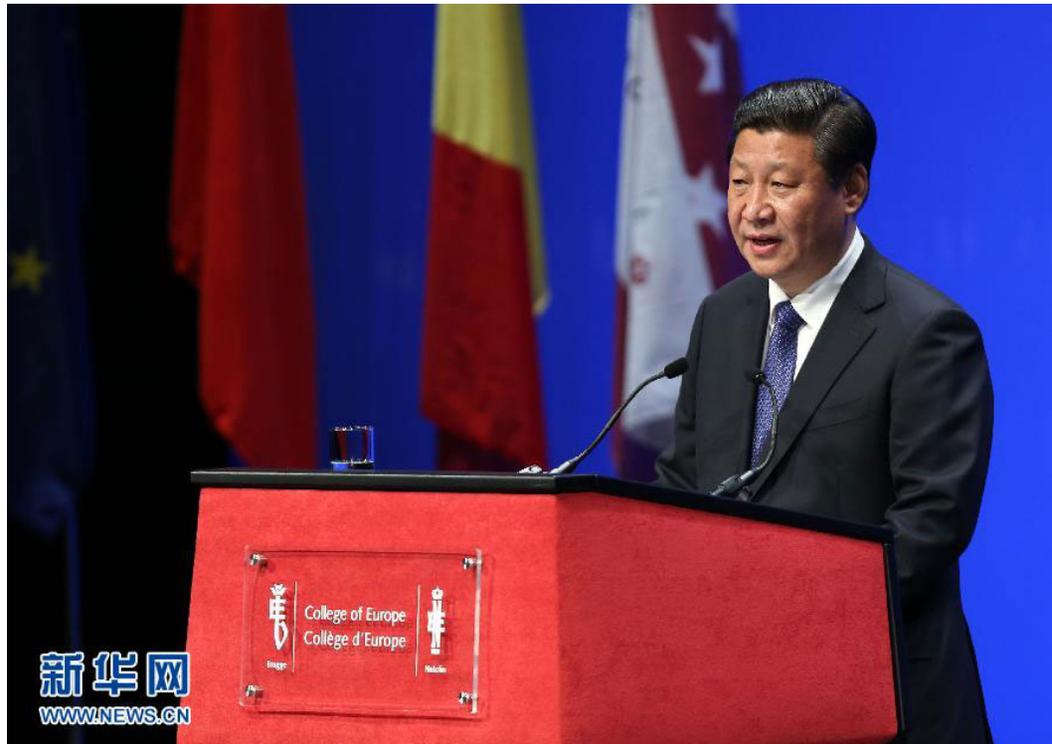


Xi Jinping Speaks on China-EU Relations in Bruges

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Chinese President Xi Jinping visited **the College of Europe** in the historic city of Bruges in northwest Belgium on Tuesday and delivered a keynote speech on EU-China relations to students and other guests.

The Chinese president has already visited The Netherlands, France and Germany. Belgium is the last leg of his European tour.



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at the College of Europe in Belgium on Tuesday, April 1, 2014. [Photo: Xinhua]

In his speech, the President stressed how important it was for China and the EU to better understand each other in order to deepen their ties. He also spent some time briefing the audience about China's history and its current conditions.

Xi Jinping said the combined economy of China and the EU accounts for one third of the global economy and the two sides have great potential for further cooperation.

He noted that two-way trade reached 559 billion US dollars last year and called on both sides to work together to increase trade to 1 trillion dollars by the year 2020.

President Xi urged the two sides to uphold the open market, speed up negotiations on the investment agreement, actively explore the possibility of a free trade area, and try to make China and the EU the twin engines of global economic growth.

He said that China has decided to work with the College of Europe to build the first China Library in an EU member country and agreed to provide 10,000 books, video and films on China.

He also invited students to visit China to see the changes taking place in the country for themselves. He hopes to work with the EU to increase the number of exchange students each year to 300,000 by 2020.

