

# China Launches Investigation into EU Trade Barriers

Probe will look into the impact of EU measures on Chinese transport and green energy firms

**Beijing:** Beijing said Wednesday it is kicking off a formal probe into EU practices after the bloc launched an anti-subsidy investigation on a range of Chinese transport and green energy firms.

Trade tensions between Beijing and Brussels have spiralled in recent months, with the European Union taking aim at China's support for its renewables and electric-vehicle sectors in particular.

China has denied that its industrial policies are unfair and has repeatedly threatened retaliation to safeguard its companies' legal rights and interests.

Its commerce ministry said Wednesday it would "conduct a trade and investment barrier investigation into the relevant practices adopted by the EU in its investigation of Chinese enterprises".

The probe followed a complaint made by the national chamber of commerce for importing and exporting machinery and electronics, the ministry said in a statement.

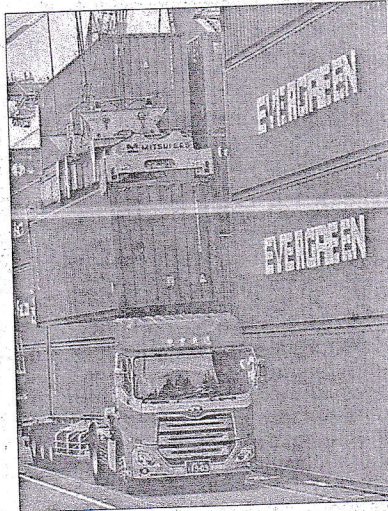
The complaint mainly dealt with "products such as railway locomotives, photovoltaics, wind power and security inspection equipment", it said.

The ministry added that the probe would examine the EU's "preliminary reviews, in-depth investigations and surprise inspections of Chinese enterprises".

It said the investigation would likely last until January 10, 2025, but may be extended by a further three months under "special circumstances".

The EU has previously launched similar probes into Beijing's support for domestically produced trains, solar panels and electric cars.

They have come as the 27-nation bloc seeks to scale up renewable energy use to meet its target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. —AFP



## Consumer Prices Inch Up But Deflation Pressure Lingers



**Beijing:** China's consumer prices eked out another small gain in June, hovering near

zero for a fifth month, a sign that deflationary pressures continue to impede an economic recovery. The consumer price index rose 0.2% from a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics said Wednesday. That compares with an increase of 0.3% in May and a median forecast of 0.4% in a Bloomberg survey of economists. Companies' rolling out promotions for the annual "618" shopping festival hurt the prices of entertainment-related consumer goods, household appliances and cars last month. —BB