
CHINA DIRECT: EU-CHINA IN 2022 - LITHUANIA'S INFIGHTING - XI'AN COVID OUTBREAK

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BY STUART LAU

FRESH FROM THE HOLIDAYS! Some European countries and businesses may have hoped that relations with China would somehow emerge onto a more stable footing after New Year, but it didnt come to pass. While most people working in foreign policy circles in EU capitals are fixated on the the more immediate eastern front, with Russia rattling sabers over Ukraines bid to join NATO, wed like to point out China has been far from quiet.

While you were away *□□□ of the last-standing independent media outlets closed down in Hong Kong, after one of them saw its top editors and board members arrested by the national security police. Coronavirus is hitting Xian, the city of terracotta warriors and nearly 13 million people. Some 40,000 people are currently under strict lockdown, with many complaining about difficulties getting access to food and healthcare. U.S. electric car giant Tesla opened a new showroom in Xinjiang, prompting criticism from human rights groups concerned about Chinas hardline policies against Uyghur Muslims living there.

WELCOME BACK TO CHINA DIRECT. This is your host Stuart Lau, Europe-China correspondent at POLITICO, and heres your weekly dispatch, as every Thursday. We are 29 days away from the Beijing Winter Olympics □ and most European leaders still havent made up their mind whether to book flight tickets.

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