EU's Plan to Shun Chinese Telecom Giants Backfires

Clear Voice 🎙️

By HU Dingkun & SUN Jin

The European Commission is exploring ways to compel European Union member states to phase out Huawei Technologies Co. and ZTE Corp. from their telecommunications networks, Reuters and other outlets reported on November 11.

Claims by the EU reiterating security risks associated with Chinese telecom vendors remain unsubstantiated and are utterly absurd.

Similar allegations, frequently amplified by the U.S., suggest the Chinese equipment could contain backdoors enabling cyberattacks. However, no concrete evidence proving such security risks exists.

The German cybersecurity agency has explicitly stated that it has evaluated Huawei's products from around the world and found no suspicious components or backdoors.

In the past, Britain's intelligence agencies also claimed "any security risks Huawei posed could be managed".

In reality, Chinese vendors maintain a substantial presence in Europe's 5G market.

Forcing the removal of Chinese equipment runs counter to market dynamics and would impose significant costs on the EU.

Barclays Bank estimates that replac-

A view of the planned Huawei mobile phone network equipment factory in Brumath, eastern France. (PHOTO: VCG)

ing Huawei's infrastructure in Germany alone could cost approximately $2.9 billion, while raising the risk of technical disruptions to 5G operations.

The UK government has acknowledged that banning Huawei's equipment would cost up to $3.1 billion and delay the country's 5G rollout by two to three years.

Although market restrictions in the EU may affect Chinese telecom enterprises' operations in Europe, it is unlikely to diminish their global leadership. Huawei still retains strong market reach and growth potential.

Research by Omdia, a technology research group, reported in August that Huawei leads the wireless access network market in three of the world's five major regions: the Asia-Pacific and Oceania, the Middle East and Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

By mid-2025, Huawei held an estimated 31 percent share of the global telecom equipment market, far surpassing second placed Nokia at 14 percent.

In October, The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) stated in its report that as of September 2025, over 3.2 billion people

outside China resided in countries that use 5G networks that rely on Huawei equipment.

The prominence of Chinese vendors in Europe stems from their competitive product performance and price — an outcome of normal market competition.

Light Reading highlighted Huawei's role as a pioneer in Time Division Duplex (TDD) 5G technology, and a leader in commercializing Gallium Nitride (GaN) power amplifiers-advantages, that make Huawei a preferred supplier for operators worldwide.

Critically, Chinese telecom enterprises are doubling down on research and development (R&D) as a core strategy against external pressures.

The ITIF report noted "between 2013 and 2020, Huawei increased its real R&D expenditure by more than threefold, surpassing that of any other peer company."

After U.S. sanctions, Huawei's R&D intensity surged to an average of 20 percent of revenue annually between 2019 and 2023, higher than almost all major international competitors in the telecom equipment sector.

Led by Huawei, Chinese telecom companies are building core competitiveness through sustained technological innovation.

Neither unsubstantiated security allegations nor market access barriers can halt the progress of China's telecom technology and industry. Ultimately, the EU's attempts to exclude Chinese vendors from its market may harm its own interests.

SDGs' Success Demands Collective Governance

Opinion

By BI Weizi & LONG Yun

A recent far-reaching report has revealed that global sustainable development is in a critical state and collaborative governance in this regard is urgently needed.

Released at the opening ceremony of the 2025 World Science and Technology Development Forum recently, the Global-Scale Sustainable Development Scientific Monitoring Report (2025) titled A Decade of Progress Through the Lens of Big Earth Data has described the challenges in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as significant.

Urgency needed

The Report draws on the expertise

Bleached corals around the Koh Tao Island in the southern Thai province of Surat Thani. (PHOTO: VCG)

of over 40 research institutions and international organizations from 21 countries worldwide. Following multiple rounds of international and domestic expert reviews, it was compiled using global-scale, high-spatial-temporal data products. It employs innovative scientific methods to conduct a multi-dimensional "health check" of the progress made towards the UN SDGs over the past 10 years.

"The latest 'health report' paints a sobering picture: since 2015, the overall progress of global sustainable development has fallen far short of expectations, and the situation is extremely urgent," said Guo Huadong, director-general of the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals.

Of the 18 SDG indicators monitored, only one has been on track since 2015, while 11 face "significant" or "major"

challenges. The areas experiencing decline include fundamental aspects of human survival and development, such as the basis of food security (decreasing arable land per capita), the sustainability of water resources (falling groundwater reserves), the health of marine ecosystems (decreasing dissolved oxygen concentration), the biodiversity of terrestrial areas (decreasing forest cover) and the response to climate change (increasing per capita anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions).

This suggests that there are accumulating systemic risks to global sustainable development, which urgently require countries to strengthen their actions.

China leading the way

At the national level, the Report provides a comprehensive assessment of contributions from 15 nationally determined indicators. Through their proactive actions in areas such as ecological protection and sustainable resource utilization, China, Canada, Brazil, Norway and other countries have become leading "positive contributors" globally. China's average contribution to these 15 indicators is the highest globally, reflecting its commitment to advancing the achievement of relevant global sustainable development goals and taking responsibility at an international level.

In order to address the current challenges to global sustainable development, the Report makes three recommendations: Firstly, it recommends leveraging platforms such as the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the

Digital SDGs Programme to accelerate the filling of data gaps and improve the completeness and timeliness of assessment data. Secondly, it suggests deepening the correlation analysis of SDGs such as food, water and energy to avoid resource waste. Thirdly, it proposes optimizing policy and funding allocation based on spatially differentiated assessment results, improving inclusive and equitable governance systems, and narrowing regional development gaps.

Global openness and sharing

Quarraisha Abdool Karim, president of The World Academy of Sciences, told *Science and Technology Daily* that the recently published report shows how new technologies, particularly Earth observation and integrated big data analytics, can overcome the limitations of incomplete and fragmented data in traditional monitoring systems. It effectively compensates for the shortcomings of traditional monitoring by providing timely, detailed, targeted and globally comparable spatial data products.

With less than five years remaining to achieve the SDGs, Guo emphasized that global cooperation is crucial.

The assessment methodology and research data of the report are open to global sharing. This will provide foundational data for multidisciplinary and comprehensive research on sustainable development, offer technical support for evidence-based action towards the SDGs, and accelerate global sustainable development efforts in this final critical stage.

COP30 Recognizes China's Climate Solutions

By Staff Reporters

As world leaders gathered in Belem, Brazil for COP30, the 2025 UN Climate Change Conference, a quiet transformation began. The global climate agenda gradually started moving from rhetoric to results, and from distant pledges to practical, affordable technologies that can make a real difference. China's experience in developing its national carbon market drew global attention at the conference.

Down-to-earth actions

China is increasingly becoming a pivotal force in global climate governance as the United States retreats and Europe adjusts its approach, Finland's *Helsingin Sanomat* said in an editorial on November 11.

The *Guardian* reported André Corrêa do Lago, president of COP30, as saying that more countries should follow China's lead instead of complaining about being outcompeted.

"Somehow the reduction in enthusiasm of the global north is showing that the global south is moving," he told reporters in Belém. "China is coming up with solutions that are for everyone, not just China."

Maya Majueran, director of the Belt and Road Initiative Sri Lanka, an independent and pioneering organization with strong expertise in Belt and Road Initiative advice and support, said China has been promoting green cooperation and technology sharing.

Guided by the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity, it is emphasizing sustainable industrialization. From solar panels to clean steel, China's partnerships with developing countries aim to make low-carbon growth both attainable and inclusive, demonstrating that climate

progress and development can go hand in hand.

As the United States undermines climate action and Europe grapples with fulfilling its green ambitions, a surprising transformation is unfolding in many large, fast-growing economies, home to the majority of the world's population, a *New York Times* article said. "Key to this shift is the world's new renewable energy superpower: China. In effect, Chinese industrial policy is shaping the development trajectory of some of the world's fastest-growing economies."

ETS benefits the world

According to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, since 2024, China's emissions trading system (ETS) has expanded to include the steel, cement and aluminum industries. By the end of October 2025, cumulative trading volume exceeded 770 million tons of carbon allowances, with a total value of over 51.8 billion RMB (about 7.3 billion USD).

The voluntary emissions reduction market is also growing rapidly, promoting low-carbon technologies and the monetization of ecological products.

Valerie Hickey, global director for climate change at the World Bank, called China's ETS "a model of steady and expanding growth" and urged the global community to strengthen exchanges to make carbon markets more efficient and inclusive.

Diana Acconcia, director for international affairs and climate finance at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action, said she was glad to see China enhancing its ETS. The EU is ready to deepen cooperation with China on carbon pricing and support other developing countries in establishing effective systems, she added.

Green Tech Enables Food-grade Packaging Printing

By QI Liming

China has made a breakthrough in the field of green printing technology with Dingyi Zhiyuan Technology Development Co., Ltd., an enterprise based in Hunan province, central China, independently developing the world's first thermal sublimation label and photo printing machine, DTP-330B.

The company has achieved high-purity synthesis of thermal sublimation nano-dye molecules and developed a thermal transfer printing technology with independent intellectual property rights.

The printer uses a green printing technology that transfers the pigments on the ribbon onto the surface of the material through heat pressing. It can be widely applied in industrial signage,

flexible packaging, electronic labels and other fields.

Although this technology is challenging, it is relatively green and low-carbon. The printer has no nozzles, and therefore there is no risk of blockages, significantly reducing equipment costs.

It can be extended to food-grade packaging printing as well. It enables food-grade printing with the colors remaining unfaded even after being boiled for 30 minutes.

The third-generation thermal transfer intelligent production line is operating smoothly. The water-based thermal transfer ink emits virtually no volatile organic compounds during the production process, and the printer is 50 percent more energy-efficient than the traditional process.

The principle of thermal sublimation printing technology. (PHOTO: Dingyi Zhiyuan Technology Development Co., Ltd.)

Innovation Corridor Across Lancang-Mekong Region

The November 11 workshop identified green development, digital cooperation, and talent cultivation as priorities for the next three years. Partnerships among universities, research institutes,
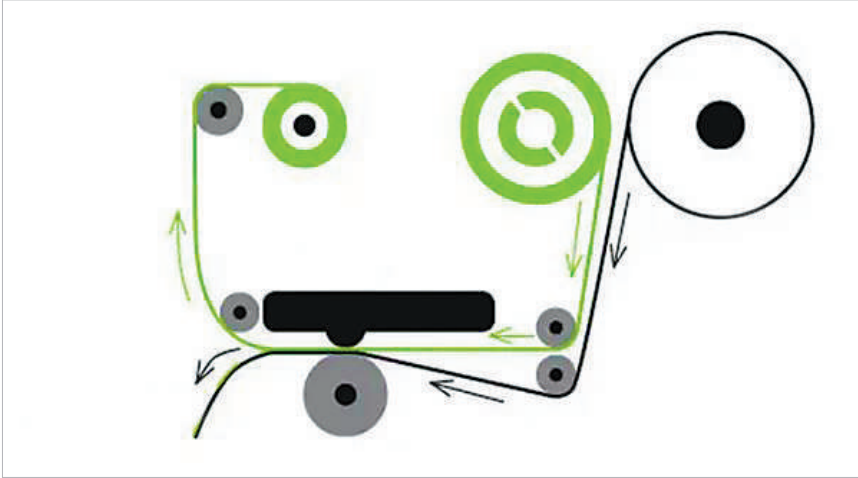
and industries will be deepened in fields such as clean energy utilization, ecological conservation and carbon neutrality technologies.

The Lancang-Mekong countries also plan to jointly build credible digital infrastructure, conduct cooperative research on AI and block chains, and develop a regional data flow guidance framework.

In terms of talent development, the exchange programs for young scientists will be expanded. Regular training

mechanisms will be established based on platforms like Tengchong Scientists Forum, nurturing interdisciplinary professionals who understand regional contexts and possess advanced technological expertise.