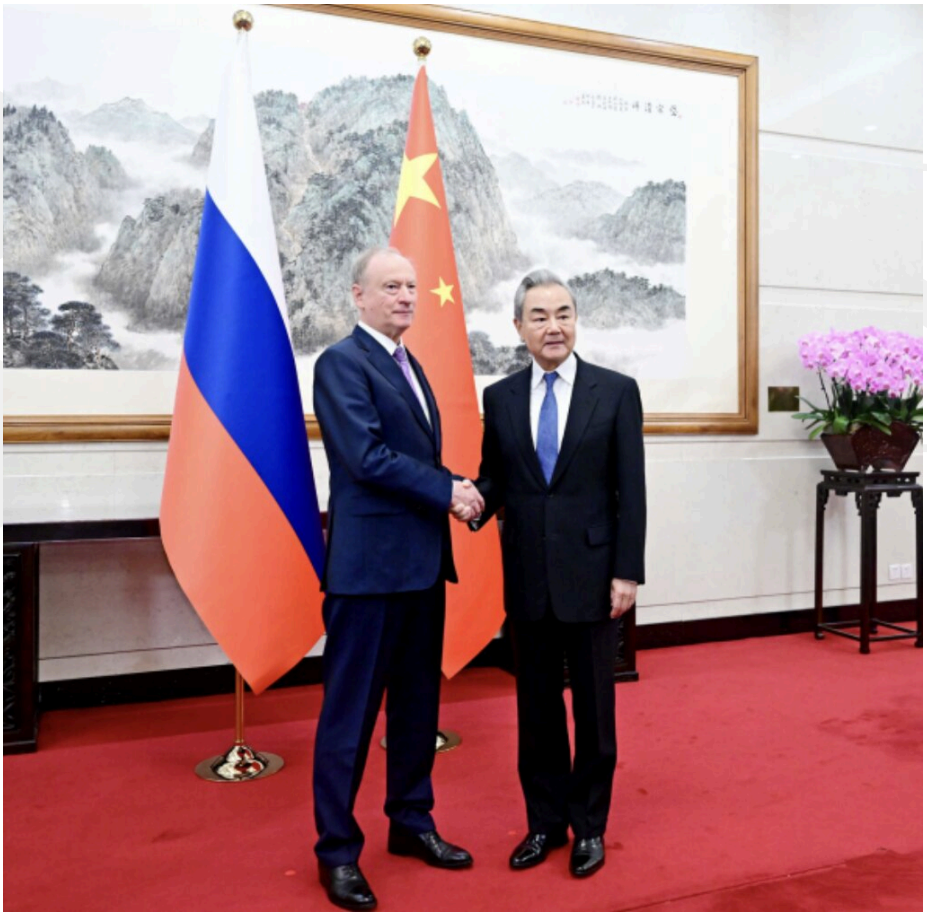
China and Russia aim to strengthen Cooperative Relations in the Arctic

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Nikolai Patrushev and Wang Yi strengthen the aim towards Arctic cooperation

Promoting Sino-Russian Collaboration

Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of the PRC, has met with Russian Presidential Aide and Chairman of the Maritime Board Nikolai Patrushev in Beijing on Monday, 12th of October. This symbol of continued Sino-Russian cooperation comes at a time in which the Arctic is undergoing a profound change.

The German Marshall Fund observes that the increasingly reduced sea coverage creates the possibility for new trade, infrastructure development, shipping and military activity – all of which both Russia and China hope to benefit from.

With trade between both countries having increased by more than 30% in 2026, government officials pose that furthering Sino-Russian bilateral relations requires opening new logistical routes across the Arctic and "multilateral maritime governance."

The Chinese foreign ministry stated that *"China's construction of the 'Ice Silk Road' and Russia's advancement of Arctic shipping routes coincide, and cooperation on maritime affairs is increasingly important within the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Russia."*

Sino-Russian trade amongst international tensions

As Russia faces sanctions following its war of aggression against Ukraine, the Kremlin relies on partners such as China to uphold opportunities for bilateral trade. In this regard, shipments across the Northern Sea Route largely transport Russian gas and oil to China. The Barents Observer states that in the first eight months of 2026, Russian Arctic oil exports already surpassed prior records, with more than ten million barrels of oil supplied to Chinese buyers.

In continuation of the Arctic initially being thematised between the two countries in 2023, both Wang and Patrushev stressed the strategic benefit Arctic cooperation promises in the future.