Brussels or Beijing? Why 'Made in Europe' Became the Real Test at the 20 November EU-UK Summit

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Roberto Papagno



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Inside London's Push to Secure British Entry into the EU's 'Made in Europe' Plan

Behind the headline agreements on food trade, carbon markets, and youth mobility at the 20 November Brussels summit lies a deeper industrial struggle: Britain's bid to join the EU's 'Made in Europe' agenda. Formally known as the Industrial Accelerator Act, Brussels' flagship plan aims to favour European manufacturers in public procurement for electric vehicles, clean energy, and nuclear technology. For PM Andy Burnham, exclusion threatens to lock British factories out of deeply integrated continental supply chains. Yet no formal decision was reached today, as EU lawmakers will not finalise the legislation until spring 2027. To keep leverage alive, London linked its future concessions on EU student tuition fees to securing

favourable industrial terms within six months. Crucially, France and the European Commission warn that special status demands trade-defence alignment, potentially forcing Britain to match EU tariffs on Chinese electric cars.

Tariff Alignment on Chinese Electric Vehicles Emerges as the True Price of Access

The battle over 'Made in Europe' reveals the true price of Britain's post-Brexit 'reset'. While Burnham has framed the 20 November summit as a pragmatic win-win for exporters and young people, industrial policy is forcing Downing Street toward a binary choice between Brussels and Beijing. The European Union will not grant British firms privileged access to taxpayer-funded green contracts if the UK remains a potential back door for tariff-free Chinese electric vehicles. At the same time, bowing to French demands for strict trade alignment risks reviving domestic accusations that Britain is becoming a passive rule-taker without a seat at the table. By kicking both tuition fees and industrial access into next spring, Burnham has bought valuable negotiating time. Yet delaying the reckoning will not soften it: genuine economic security in Europe now requires choosing a side.

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