

US considers sanctions vs China to deter it from invading Taiwan

TAIPEI/FRANKFURT/WASHINGTON — The United States is considering options for a sanctions package against China to deter it from invading Taiwan, with the European Union (EU) coming under diplomatic pressure from Taipei to do the same, according to sources familiar with the discussions.

The sources said the deliberations in Washington and Taipei's separate lobbying of EU envoys were both at an early stage — a response to fears of a Chinese invasion which have grown as military tensions escalate in the Taiwan Strait.

In both cases, the idea is to take sanctions beyond measures already taken in the West to restrict some trade and investment with China in sensitive technologies like computer chips and telecoms equipment.

The sources did not provide any details of what is being considered but the notion of sanctions on the world's second-largest economy and one of the global

supply chain's biggest links raises questions of feasibility.

"The potential imposition of sanctions on China is a far more complex exercise than sanctions on Russia, given US and allies' extensive entanglement with the Chinese economy," said Nazak Nikakhtar, a former senior US Commerce Department official.

China claims Taiwan as its own territory and last month fired missiles over the island and sailed warships across their unofficial sea frontier after US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taipei in what Beijing saw as a provocation.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has vowed to bring democratically-governed Taiwan under Beijing's control and has not ruled out the use of force. He is set to secure a third, five-year leadership term at a Communist Party congress next month. Taiwan's government strongly rejects China's sovereignty claims.

In Washington, officials are considering options for a possible package of sanctions against China to deter Mr. Xi from attempting to invade Taiwan, said a US official and an official from a country in close coordination with Washington.

US talks over sanctions began after Russia invaded Ukraine in February, but took on fresh urgency after the Chinese reaction to Ms. Pelosi's visit, the two sources said.

The United States, backed by NATO allies, took a similar approach to Russia in January with a threat of unspecified sanctions but this failed to dissuade Russian President Vladimir Putin from launching his invasion of Ukraine.

The White House is focused on getting countries on the same page, including coordinating between Europe and Asia, and avoiding provoking Beijing, the non-US official said.

Reuters was unable to learn details on what specific sanctions were under consideration, but

some analysts suggested China's military could be the focus.

"Big picture, initial sanctions conversations will likely revolve around curtailing China's access to certain technologies required to sustain a military operation against Taiwan," said Craig Singleton at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

The White House declined to comment.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said it had discussed China's recent war games and the "great challenges" China poses to Taiwan and the region with the United States, Europe and other like-minded partners, but could not disclose details.

China's Foreign Ministry and the Chinese Embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to requests for comment. — Reuters

FULL STORY

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Hotter temperatures making people angrier online

CLIMATE CHANGE is making us angrier online. A lot angrier.

Hateful comments spike on social media when temperatures rise above 30 degrees Celsius (86 Fahrenheit), researchers at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research have found.

"It's an indicator of how well people can adapt to high temperatures," said Annika Stechemesser, lead author of the study published in *The Lancet Planetary Health* earlier this month. "If temperatures go too hot or too cold, we found that there's an increase in online hate speech, no matter the socioeconomic differences, religion or political beliefs."

Global warming of about 1.1°C on average since pre-industrial times has unleashed all sorts of extreme weather events across the world. This summer, drought and a string of heat waves hit Europe, China and the US. For humans, heat is associated with psychiatric hospitalizations, increased rates of suicide and more domestic violence, according to research.

And aggressive behavior online has been linked to violence offline

too. Recent posts have led to more violence toward minorities, including mass shootings, lynchings and ethnic cleansing, according to the Council on Foreign Relations, a New York-based think tank.

Ms. Stechemesser and other researchers analyzed a sample of 4 billion tweets between 2014 and 2020 from users based in the US. They used artificial intelligence to identify about 75 million hate messages in English, using the United Nations' definition of online hate, which includes racial discrimination, misogyny and homophobia. They then analyzed how the number of tweets changed when local temperatures increased or decreased.

The researchers found that online hate speech increased as daily maximum temperatures rose above 21°C (70F) — a "feel good" point. Hate messages went up as much as 22% on hot days, compared with the average online hate during times of mild weather.

Across all climate zones and socioeconomic groups in the US, online tensions intensified even more

significantly when temperatures exceeded 30°C. Researchers observed that online hate speech increased by as much as 24% — from the feel good point — when temperatures reached 42°C to 45°C in US regions with hot and dry climates such as parts of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California. Last year, a study by the same researchers focusing on Europe reached similar conclusions.

"When discussing climate change, it's a point to remember that we feel the effects everywhere, not just in places with big disasters," Ms. Stechemesser said. "There are places where the social consequences of heat have not been discussed very thoroughly, especially around how we can live together as a society and deal with our wellbeing in the future."

Researchers analyzed the tweets as a whole and did not look into specific incidents. That means there's no way to know if the weather made online tensions worse following the murder of George Floyd in May 2020, for instance, or in the lead up to the attack on the US Capitol in January 2021. Still, some

conclusions can be reached ahead of the US mid-terms on Nov. 8.

"Our results show that if September is particularly hot, we can expect to see more hate on Twitter," said Ms. Stechemesser. "But the research doesn't really show what kind of hate it is or on what topics — we don't know yet whether the hate we observe is tied to political issues."

The direct relation between heat and online hate has also been documented in China, where researchers analyzed over 400 million tweets from a sample of 43 million users posting on the country's largest microblog platform — Sina Weibo. They concluded that days with temperatures above 35°C, rain, higher wind speed, overcast skies and air pollution all make people grumpier online.

"Of course, people can, to an extent decide consciously whether they want to be nice or not, but we still find you'll have more hateful behavior if you find yourself a certain temperature range," Ms. Stechemesser said. "The first thing to do is limit global warming, that's the most obvious approach to solving this."

— Bloomberg

Sugar, from SI/1

However, Mr. Lamata said that the SRA must monitor the crop year's output in order to determine if another importation order is necessary.

"We will know for sure come April to May next year. When the milling season ends, the SRA should do a private inventory of the whole industry as to how much sugar stocks are left. That's the time we will know if we need to import or not," he added.

Meanwhile, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) Chairman Rafael V. Mariano said that the import plan is ill-timed as it coincides with the start of the milling season.

"There is no need for imports. There is no need for that 150,000 MT of sugar because we have locally produced and locally milled sugar coming in. We have already started milling production," he said in a phone call interview.

The crop year began on Sept. 1, 2022 and ends on Aug. 31, 2023.

The SRA board also issued SO No. 1, which allocates all sugar output for the crop year as class "B" or for domestic use.

"Planters themselves are saying that there is no shortage or lack of supply. We have enough. If the reason behind the import program is to lower prices, there is no need for that," Mr. Mariano added.

Farmer-scientist group Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (MASIPAG) said in a statement that the government should focus on boosting local production instead of relying on importation.

"Importation is never the answer, transforming the current sugar production system and strengthening of local production anchored in genuine rural development is... Sugar importation, which is the entry point for fully liberalizing the sugar trade, would result in a 6.8% decrease in domestic output," MASIPAG said.

MASIPAG pushed for sustainable and organic sugar farming, which can "re-localize the food system and pave the way for a pro-people sugar industry."

Mr. Montemayor also called for the review of the Sugarcane Industry Development Act (SIDA).

"There are several billion pesos earmarked for the sugar sector under the SIDA, but only a small percentage is being spent. We need to study whether this is because of inefficiencies within the SRA or defects in the SIDA law itself," he said.

SO No. 2 is the first sugar import plan issued under the new administration. It comes after the "illegal" release of SO No. 4, which would have allowed the import of 300,000 MT of refined sugar.

Vehicle, from SI/1

"The recovery of the industry is indeed on track as we reached monthly sales of above 30,000 units — a pre-pandemic monthly performance level last recorded in 2019. This year-on-year improvement of 90.5% in August brings us closer to achieving the industry sales target this year," CAMPI President Rommel R. Gutierrez said in a separate statement.

For the first eight months of 2022, CAMPI-TMA members sold 212,872 units, up by 25% from 170,112 units during the same period last year.

Sales of commercial vehicles jumped by 39% to 160,790 units in the January to August period, which accounted for 75% of the industry's total sales. Broken down, light commercial vehicle sales rose by 43% to 126,633 units, while AUVs went up by 31% to 27,874 units.

Passenger car sales, on the other hand, contracted by 4.3% to 52,082 units in the eight-month period but still made up 24% of total sales.

"With the return of the 8th Philippine International Motor Show this month, there are plenty of reasons to be optimistic of having a stronger year after a period of lower sales achievement because of the pandemic," Mr. Gutierrez said.

Among CAMPI-TMA members, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. had the highest sales in the first eight months with 108,746 units sold, equivalent to 51.09% market share.

Other top car manufacturers during the period include Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. with 30,207 units sold (14.19% share), Nissan Philippines, Inc. with 14,487 (6.81% share), Ford Motor Co. Phils. Inc. with 13,348 (6.27% share), and Suzuki Phils., Inc. with 12,838 (6.03% share).

However, CAMPI earlier warned sales of commercial vehicles will take a hit if Congress approves a measure removing the excise tax exemption for pickup trucks.

In August, the House Ways and Means Committee approved the fourth package of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program which included the elimination of the excise tax exemption for pickup trucks.

Under Republic Act No. 10963 or the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion, pickup trucks are exempted from excise tax as part of efforts to assist small business owners and professionals.

According to the Finance department, the removal of the excise tax exemption is expected to generate P52.6 billion worth of additional revenues from 2022 to 2026.

"We are concerned about the addition of the taxes. As we know, the demand for vehicles is price sensitive. This will definitely impact prices. We are still recovering. We have not yet recovered fully to pre-pandemic levels," Mr. Gutierrez previously said. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

JOB OPENING

TECHNICAL LEAD – AS400 TECHNOLOGY

Qualifications:

- Minimum of 5 years of Information Technology experience in a combination of the following industries: banking, telecommunications, insurance and/or healthcare; and
- With extensive experience in AS400 Technology

Key responsibilities:

- Suggest performance improvement based on contextual knowledge.
- Perform external quality analyst for the other teams requirements and provide them instant comments which I feel can impact the project delivery.
- Excellent track record in preparing and providing status reports and metrics as per project/organization guidelines.

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JOB OPENING

LEAD – TALENT SOURCING, STRATEGY AND PROCESS COMPLIANCE

Qualifications:

- Minimum of six (6) years of experience in Talent Sourcing.
- With extensive knowledge in general operations management including management of the Employee Referral Program, Vendor Contract Review and Finalization, compliance requirements etc.
- With expertise in 360-degree recruitment including taking job briefs, developing sourcing strategies and posting job advertisements, undertaking internal/external searches (database, Job Street, Indeed, LinkedIn, Manager Network, etc.), telephone screening, shortlisting, interview organization, face to face interviewing when required, reference checking and managing the offer process.

Key responsibilities:

- Engage with a wide variety of stakeholders at all levels across the business and train/coach/support Hiring Managers to ensure best practice recruitment and solid hiring decisions.
- Project work – maintenance of current projects and initiation of new requirements to progress the Talent Acquisition function and deliver to an ever-changing business landscape.

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Annex "B"

CERTIFICATE OF NOMINATION

INSTRUCTIONS: (Read well before filling up this form.)

1. Fill this in FIVE (5) legible copies and submit to the Law Department, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM ONLY, on any day from OCTOBER 1-4, 2022 (including Saturday and Sunday).
2. ATTACH to this Certificate the Sworn Certificate of Acceptance of Nomination and Affidavit of the Secretary General and Chairperson/President.
3. COPY FURNISH to the Clerk of the Commission.
4. This certificate shall be sworn before a notary public or any official authorized to administer oath. COMELEC officials are not authorized to administer oath, even in their capacities as Notary Public.
5. No filing fee shall be imposed.

PURSUANT to the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and By-Laws of **ABANTE PANGASINAN-ILOKANO**, a **political party/sectoral party/organization/coalition** accredited by the Commission to participate in the May 9, 2022 National and Local Elections under the party-list system, I **NELSON V. GAYO**, Chairperson/President/Secretary-General of aforesaid party-list group, hereby nominate in the order stated the following party-list nominees:

NAME	ADDRESS
1. MICHAEL M. MORDEN	ZONE V, VILLASIS, PANGASINAN
2. AMADO T. ESPINO JR.	POBLACION EAST, BAUTISTA, PANGASINAN
3. AMADO T. ESPINO	POBLACION EAST, BAUTISTA, PANGASINAN
4. LAUDEMER I. FARIA	SITAL AVE., POBLACION, MANGALDAN, PANGASINAN
5. RAMON M. MORDEN	COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS, POBLACION, VILLASIS, PANGASINAN
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

I hereby certify that the above nominees have all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications of party-list nominees and that they are neither candidates for any elective office nor have anyone of them lost their bid for an elective office in the May 9, 2022 National and Local Elections.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto affix my signature this Scr 01 day of Scr 01 2022, in LAOAG, PANGASINAN, Philippines.

Nelson V. Gayo
NELSON V. GAYO
Chairperson/President/Secretary-General

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this Scr 01 day of Scr 01, 2022, at LAOAG, PANGASINAN, affiant exhibiting to me an identification document/card which contains a photograph and signature bearing No. 01 0809 issued by SSS on Scr 01 day of Scr 01, 2022.

Doc. No. 298
Page No. 41
Book No. 217
Series of 2022.

Atty. Juan Ray G. Rerugio
ATTY. JUAN RAY G. RERUGIO
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION EXPIRES ON Dec 31, 2022
PTR NO. 3425 (Book and Address: Apparatus)
AT LAOAG, PANGASINAN
ROLL NO. 58699
MCLE COMPLIANCE NO. 1111

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Ayala, core businesses consistently cited in London-based index series for strong ESG practice

Ayala Corporation and its core businesses Ayala Land, Globe, and BPI continue to exhibit strong Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices, as assessed by London-based FTSE4GOOD Index Series.

Created by the global index and data provider FTSE Russell, the FTSE4Good Index Series is designed to measure the performance of companies demonstrating strong ESG practices. The FTSE4Good indexes are used by a wide variety of market participants to create and assess responsible investment funds and other products.

Ayala Corporation has been a constituent of the FTSE4GOOD Index Series since 2016. Globe and Ayala Land have been in the list for seven consecutive years, while BPI was named constituent since 2020.

FTSE Russell evaluations are based on performance in areas such as Corporate Governance, Health & Safety, Anti-Corruption and Climate Change. The criteria are developed using an extensive market consultation process and are approved by an independent committee of experts. A broad range of stakeholders, including NGOs, governmental bodies, consultants, academics, the investment community and the corporate sector, help shape the criteria.

Ayala Corporation's Chief Finance Officer, Chief Risk Officer, and Chief Sustainability Officer Albert de Larrazabal said the group's consistent

inclusion in FTSE4Good Index Series shows Ayala's strong adherence to globally recognized ESG standards.

"We are quite honored to be consistently included in the FTSE4GOOD Index Series, which supports investors who wish to encourage positive change in corporate behavior and align their portfolios with their values," Larrazabal said.

"Ayala's holistic view of ESG practices is instilled in our companies. When you invest in Ayala, you are investing for the greater good—and you are assured of long-term value for your investment," he added.

Ayala Corporation is among the 65 companies, investor groups, and professional accounting firms that endorsed a joint statement calling for a global baseline for reporting sustainability-related information.

This call to action seeks to provide a comprehensive global baseline of sustainability disclosures needed by capital markets, including investors who allocate capital internationally, companies who operate and raise capital across national borders, and the accounting profession that serves all consumers of corporate reporting.

Ayala and its core business units are signatories to the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures and are currently working to implement the 11 recommended disclosures in the pillars of governance, strategy, risk management, and metrics & targets.