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CHINESE ECONOMY

Huawei and BYD's construction of factories in Europe has raised security concerns

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Li Bo'an

LONDON —Today (January 18), the United Kingdom-based human rights group Hong Kong Watch released a comprehensive report outlining Huawei and BYD's strategic move to establish manufacturing hubs in Europe. This coincides with the EU-China summit and the European Parliament's enactment of the Critical Raw Materials Act, which has brought more attention to China-EU relations.

The EU introduced a series of protective measures last year, from an investigation into subsidies for electric vehicles in China, to limiting the market share of telecom giants Huawei and ZTE in Europe, and even enforcing the EU's carbon adjustment mechanism. At the same time, BYD and Huawei announced plans to open factories in Hungary and France, respectively.

The report reveals that Huawei and BYD highlighted their ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the People's Republic of China (PRC) governments, as well as their important ties to Hong Kong. As fundamental rights and freedoms in Hong Kong, including the rule of law, are being rapidly eroded, the report identifies key ethical and safety issues that have broad implications for the two companies being allowed to set up factories in Europe.

Megan Khoo, a Hong Kong-based surveillance research and policy adviser and author of the report, said: "China seems to have jumped on the move when it heard about 'de-risking'. Huawei plans to set up a factory in France this year, and BYD also plans to set up a factory in Hungary. Before Huawei and BYD set up factories in Europe, the European Commission must launch a thorough and independent investigation into the national security risks they pose, and the European Parliament must hold hearings on them. "

Huawei, BYD's close ties to the Chinese government

The Hong Kong watchdog report noted that Huawei's and BYD's close ties to the Chinese government have raised concerns about potential national security risks. The European Commission issued a report in June last year, listing Huawei as a "high-risk" supplier for the first time and saying that the EU would restrict or prohibit the two companies from providing services.

Although BYD is a different company, it has close ties with Huawei.

According to Huawei's website, BYD is the original equipment manufacturer of Huawei mobile phones..... Like Huawei, BYD is also subject to China's National Intelligence Law, which means that BYD must provide information to Chinese intelligence agencies without being transparent," the report said.

According to the report, BYD has a history of intellectual property infringement, data security and economic espionage.

"BYD uses its status as a private company to acquire foreign technology, markets and data, which it then transfers to China's state-owned enterprises and military enterprises. BYD uses its status as a private enterprise to acquire foreign technology, markets and data, which are then transferred to Chinese state-owned enterprises and military enterprises," the report noted.

In addition, the report points out that BYD also has a certain relationship with China's military production.

In addition, research conducted by the United States Manufacturing Council (AAMC) found that BYD received billions of dollars in subsidies from the Chinese government, far more than publicly reported... BYD has also set up an R&D center in China's military annex zone to focus on technology transfer. This allows China's state-owned enterprises to shape and produce the products needed for specific EV components. ”

Benedict Rogers, co-founder and executive director of Hong Kong Monitor, said: "France and other EU member states must remain sober about the national security risks posed by Huawei and BYD, and carefully consider the rationale behind the current EU-wide policy towards Huawei, while closely scrutinizing BYD's rapidly growing business in the EU market." ”

China-related security concerns

Over the past five years, relations between China and European countries as a whole have declined, and Chinese companies in Europe have been accused of aiding the Chinese government in espionage. Germany's domestic intelligence agencies said last June that foreign intelligence agencies, particularly China and Russia, were increasingly targeting Germany and posing a "serious threat" to the country.

The report's author, Hong Kong Watch Research and Policy Advisor, Ms Yau Mei-kan, told United States Zhiyin: "Under no circumstances, especially under the current policies of EU countries towards Huawei, Huawei and BYD should not build factories in the EU. Ten EU member states have already enacted restrictions or bans on Huawei, and more EU member states should continue to impose restrictions or bans on Huawei and BYD. "

Dr. Haihai, a China expert based in Germany In an interview with United States last October, Alicia Hennig mentioned the ways in which China has infiltrated Europe, especially through companies like Huawei.

"China's infiltration in Europe is happening in a variety of ways," Dr. Coast said. The Chinese government will influence European policy not only through the United Front NGO, but also through corporations, such as Huawei, as well as academics and individuals. "

However, the Chinese government has long rejected accusations that Huawei cooperated with it. In an exclusive interview with the United Kingdom's Financial Times in 2019, Ambassador Zhang Ming, head of the Chinese mission to the European Union, said that Huawei was slandered by Western governments in an attempt to prevent the global telecommunications giant from operating around the world.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin responded to inquiries in June last year, saying: "Huawei and other Chinese telecommunications companies have operated in Europe for many years, and not only have they never endangered European national security, but have also effectively promoted the development of Europe's telecommunications sector and created considerable economic and social effects." "

Peter Dahlin, founder of Safeguard Defenders in Portugal, told United States VOA: "Generally speaking, European countries do have legitimate security concerns when dealing with Chinese companies, for example, Chinese companies involved in telecommunications infrastructure have been found to be involved in a lot of espionage." "

Call on the EU to take drastic measures

In addition, the presence of Huawei and BYD in Hong Kong, where political rights and the rule of law are rapidly declining, are compounding the problem. The report notes that Huawei's involvement, including its partnership with China Mobile Hong Kong and TPV Technology, as well as the operation of BYD's subsidiary, demonstrate their strategic position in Hong Kong's deteriorating political and economic environment.

"The EU is in a state of tension over Huawei and now China's electric vehicles," Qiu said. However, the EU must continue to defend human rights and freedoms in Hong Kong. "

At this critical juncture, the Hong Kong Monitor called on the European Commission to take drastic measures, such as publishing a list of companies linked to human rights abuses by the Chinese Communist Party and using counter-coercive measures (ACI) against these companies.

In addition, as part of the EU's EV investigation, the report calls for higher import tariffs on BYD, as well as a formal dispute with the WTO, which should be seen by the EU as a strategy to safeguard the EU's interests.

In addition, the Hong Kong surveillance has called for strong and decisive action from the European Parliament, such as recommending a resolution to raise awareness of the risks of companies such as Huawei and BYD. In addition, an independent review should be conducted and hearings should be held to examine possible links to human rights abuses in Hong Kong or forced labor in Xinjiang.

As Huawei and BYD advance their expansion plans in France and Hungary, the EU is at an important crossroads. The decision now could have serious implications for the EU's trade relations with China and the EU's reputation on global human rights and security issues.

"It is time for EU member states to take a stand against Huawei and BYD to protect EU national security and fundamental freedoms before the CCP's economic infiltration intensifies and complicity in human rights abuses in Hong Kong, Xinjiang and elsewhere becomes the norm," Qiu Meigen, a Hong Kong-based surveillance research and policy adviser, told United States.

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中国经济

华为和比亚迪在欧洲建厂引发安全担忧

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李伯安

伦敦 — 今天(1月18日)，总部于英国的人权组织香港监察(Hong Kong Watch)发表了一份综合报告，概述了华为和比亚迪在欧洲建立制造中心的战略举措。这恰逢中欧峰会和欧洲议会颁布《关键原材料法案》等重大事件之后，中欧关系受到更多关注。

欧盟于去年推行了一系列的保护措施，从对中国电动汽车补贴的调查，到限制电信巨头华为和中兴在欧洲的市场份额，甚至执行欧盟的碳调整机制。与此同时，比亚迪和华为宣布计划分别在匈牙利和法国开设工厂。

这篇报告揭示了华为和比亚迪强调了它们与中国共产党（CCP）和中华人民共和国（PRC）政府的关系，以及它们与香港的重要联系。由于目前香港的基本权利和自由（包括法治）正受到迅速侵蚀，此报告指出了这两家公司被允许在欧洲设厂的广泛影响的关键道德和安全问题。

香港监察研究及政策顾问、报告作者邱美根（Megan Khoo）表示：“中国似乎听到‘去风险’后，就跃跃欲动。华为计划今年在法国设厂，比亚迪也计划在匈牙利设厂。在华为和比亚迪在欧洲设厂这两件事发生前，欧盟委员会必须就其构成的国家安全风险展开彻底的独立调查，欧洲议会也必须就此举行听证会。”

华为比亚迪与中国政府的紧密联系

香港监察的报告指出，华为和比亚迪与中国政府的紧密联系引发了对潜在国家安全风险的担忧。欧盟委员会于去年6月发布报告，首次将华为列为“高风险”供应商，并表示欧盟将限制或禁止这两家公司提供服务。

比亚迪虽然是不同的公司，但是却与华为有紧密的联系。

“据华为网站介绍，比亚迪是华为手机的原始设备制造商.....与华为一样，比亚迪也受中国《国家情报法》的管辖，这意味着比亚迪必须在不透明的情况下向中国情报机构提供信息，”该报告说。

该报告称，比亚迪在过往有着侵犯知识产权、数据安全和经济间谍活动的前科。

“比亚迪利用其民营企业的身份获取外国技术、市场和数据，然后将其转让给中国的国有企业和军工企业。比亚迪利用其民营企业的身份获取外国技术、市场和数据，然后将其转让给中国的国有企业和军工企业，”该报告指出。

此外，该报告指出，比亚迪和中国军工生产也有一定的关系。

“此外，美国制造业联盟（AAMC）进行的研究发现，比亚迪从中国政府获得了数十亿美元的补贴、 远远超过公开报道的数额…比亚迪还在中国的军工附属区内设立了研发中心，专注于技术转让。这使中国的国有企业能够塑造和生产特定电动汽车零部件所需的产品。”

香港监察共同创办人兼行政总监罗杰斯（Benedict Rogers）表示：“法国及其他欧盟成员国必须对华为和比亚迪构成的国家安全风险保持清醒，并认真考虑整个欧盟目前对华为政策背后的理由，同时密切审视比亚迪在欧盟市场迅速增长的业务。”

与中国有关的安全担忧

在过去五年中，中国和欧洲国家整体关系下降，中国企业在欧洲也被指责协助中国政府进行间谍活动。德国国内情报机构于去年6月表示，外国情报机构，特别是中俄，越来越多地将目标对准德国，对该国“构成严重威胁”。

报告作者、香港观察研究与政策顾问邱美根对美国之音说“在任何情况下，特别是在欧盟国家对华为的现行政策下，华为和比亚迪都不应在欧盟建厂。十个欧盟成员国已经颁布了对华为的限制或禁令，更多的欧盟成员国应该继续对华为和比亚迪颁布限制或禁令。”

位于德国的中国问题专家海岸博士（Dr. Alicia Hennig）去年10月在接受美国之音采访时，提到了中国在欧洲渗透的方式，尤其是通过华为这种企业。

海岸博士说：“中国在欧洲的渗透影响是通过多种方式的。中国政府不仅会通过统一战线（United Front）这种非政府组织的形式，也会通过企业，比如华为为代表，以及学术圈和个人来对欧洲政策进行影响。”

然而，长期以来，中国政府一直对华为与其合作的指控予以拒绝。中国驻欧盟使团团长张明大使于2019在接受英国《金融时报》专访时，称华为受到西方政府造谣诽谤，试图阻止这家全球电信巨头公司在全球的运作。

中国外交部发言人汪文斌于去年6月应询回应称：“华为等中国通信企业在欧洲运营多年，不仅从未危害欧洲国家安全，而且有力促进了欧洲电信领域发展，创造了可观的经济社会效应。”

位于葡萄牙的保护卫士(Safeguard Defenders)的创始人彼得-达林（Peter Dahlin）对美国之音说：“一般来说，欧洲国家在处理中国企业时，对安全问题的担忧确实是有道理的，比如说，涉及电信基础设施的中国公司被发现参与了大量间谍活动。”

呼吁欧盟采取严厉措施

此外，华为和比亚迪在香港的存在让问题变得更加复杂，而香港的政治权利和法治正在迅速衰落。该报告指出，华为的参与，包括与中国移动香港公司和冠捷科技的合作，以及比亚迪子公司的运营，都表明它们在香港不断变差的政治和经济环境中的战略地位。

邱美根说：“在华为和现在的中国电动汽车问题上，欧盟正处于紧张状态。然而，欧盟必须继续捍卫香港的人权和自由。”

在此关键时刻，香港监察呼吁欧盟委员会采取严厉措施，例如公布与中国共产党侵犯人权有关的公司名单，并对这些公司采取反胁迫手段（ACI）。

此外，作为欧盟电动车调查的一部分，该报告呼吁提高对比亚迪的进口关税，以及正式向世贸组织提出争端，这些应被欧盟视为维护欧盟利益的策略。

此外，香港监察也要求欧洲议会采取有力、果断行动，比如建议通过决议，提高对华为和比亚迪等公司风险的认识。此外，应进行独立审查并举行听证会，审查与香港侵犯人权行为或新疆强迫劳动的可能联系。

随着华为和比亚迪推进其在法国和匈牙利的扩张计划，欧盟正站在一个重要的十字路口。现在做出的决定可能会对欧盟与中国的贸易关系以及欧盟在全球人权和安全问题上的声誉产生严重影响。

“现在是欧盟成员国对华为和比亚迪采取立场，保护欧盟国家安全和基本自由的时候了，以免中共的经济渗透加剧，在香港、新疆和其他地方侵犯人权的同谋行为成为常态，”香港监察研究与政策顾问邱美根告诉美国之音。