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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHINA

November 16, 2026

Mr. Jason Hoff
Chief Executive Officer
Mercedes-Benz North America
1 Mercedes-Benz Drive
Sandy Springs, GA 30328

Mr. Ola Källenius
Mercedes-Benz Group AG
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Mercedesstraße 120
70372 Stuttgart
Germany

Dear Mr. Hoff and Mr. Kallenius:

We write to request information about Mercedes-Benz's ownership ties, technology partnerships, and other affiliations with entities in the People's Republic of China (PRC). These records and responses will not only assist with the Select Committee's oversight of national security and supply chain risks in the automotive sector, but also inform Congress's consideration of legislation to mitigate the profound threat presented by PRC cars in the U.S. market. We appreciate your anticipated cooperation with this investigation.

Mr. Li Shufu, the founder of the PRC automotive company Geely ("Li" and "Geely"), and Beijing Automotive Group Co., Ltd. ("BAIC") each own stakes approaching 10% in Mercedes-Benz.[1] Information indicates they are in fact the two largest shareholders in Mercedes-Benz, collectively owning nearly 20% of the company. Approximately one-fifth of Mercedes-Benz being owned by PRC entities presents significant risks.

This ownership concern is compounded both by the specific nature of the shareholders, as well as the operational influence they appear to exert over your company. BAIC is not merely a PRC

[1] https://www.cnbc.com/2026/07/22/ted-cruz-china-auto-bill-mercedes-benz-gm.html

company, but a state-owned enterprise directly owned by the Chinese Government.[2] Meanwhile, Mr. Li's Geely is widely regarded as a linchpin of the PRC's efforts to supplant U.S. and European automotive leadership.[3] Beginning in 2010, Geely acquired Volvo Car Corporation, a formerly Swedish carmaker.[4] Information indicates BAIC and Li collectively cast approximately one-third of the votes at Mercedes-Benz shareholder meetings, notwithstanding their respective holdings of just under 10% each. It is notable that these holdings are just fractions of a percentage below the threshold that triggers foreign investment scrutiny under German law.[5]

To date, instead of working with Congress to address the concerns presented by your current ownership, Mercedes-Benz has actively opposed legislation to ensure PRC connected vehicles do not threaten the national security of the United States. PRC commentators have applauded Mercedes-Benz's stance, noting that "Mercedes' position is not only an effort to fight for itself, but also a rallying cry for China's auto industry."[6]

Mercedes-Benz's uniquely close ties to PRC entities hardly end there. In your company's own words, "China is not only the largest and most important sales market, but also an indispensable innovation and technology hub."[7] According to news reports, Mercedes-Benz is actively considering integrating Chinese communications technology into new models that control everything from infotainment systems to driver assist technologies.[8] Mercedes-Benz has announced multiple technology partnerships with PRC entities of concern, and even operates an overseas automobile brand, Smart, as a joint venture with Geely.[9] All this comes from the same company that apologized to the Chinese Communist Party in 2018 for quoting the Dalai Lama in an Instagram post.[10] As Mr. Kallenius put it in 2025, "we need to become more Chinese."[11]

Considering these facts, and additional specific concerns articulated in the questions below regarding certain known PRC partnerships, please produce the following records and information by no later than December 1, 2026.

1. Please produce copies of all agreements, contracts, memorandums of understanding, or other written arrangements between any Mercedes-Benz entity and BAIC or any entities

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[2] https://www.reuters.com/world/china/daimler-says-baic-will-not-further-increase-its-998-stake-2021-12-13/
[3] https://www.wsj.com/business/autos/china-geely-auto-us-market-6d2d67ca
[4] https://www.volvocars.com/intl/media/documents/efa637eaac504646be36b35d0102b22d/
[5] https://www.bundeswirtschaftsministerium.de/Redaktion/EN/Artikel/Foreign-Trade/investment-screening.html
[6] https://www.iautodaily.com/news/review/benchiweizhongguoqichedaiyanfanduimeiguoqichepaihua/
[7] https://group.mercedes-benz.com/technology/specials/auto-china-2026.html
[8] https://www.autoblog.com/news/mercedes-benz-turns-to-china-for-future-ev-technology
[9] https://media.smart.com/en-INT/260782-mercedes-benz-and-geely-holding-formally-established-global-joint-venture-smart-automobile-co-ltd-for-the-smart-brand/
[10] https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-42986679
[11] https://www.stuttgarter-zeitung.de/wirtschaft/autokongress-in-stuttgart-kaellenius-wir-muessen-chinesischer-werden-79041234.html

affiliated with BAIC ("BAIC entities"). This should, without limitation, include the following:

a. Any agreements executed or other understandings reached in connection with the initial acquisition or any subsequent acquisition of Mercedes-Benz shares by BAIC entities;
b. Any agreements executed or other understandings reached in connection with joint ventures in China or otherwise, including Beijing Benz Automotive Co. Ltd.;
c. Any shareholder agreements between Mercedes-Benz and BAIC entities; and
d. Any responsive documents relating to technology sharing, research and development, or procurement; and
e. The agreement between BAIC and Geely "that they will each keep their shareholdings in Mercedes-Benz Group AG below ten percent by divesting their shares on a pro-rata basis concurrently with [a 2023] share buyback."[12] Please also produce any correspondence related to the rationale or circumstances of this agreement.

2. Please produce copies of all agreements, contracts, memorandums of understanding, or other written arrangements between any Mercedes-Benz entity and Mr. Li, Geely, or any entities affiliated with Mr. Li or Geely ("Li or Geely entities"), including but not limited to Tenaciou3 Prospect Investment Ltd. This should, without limitation, include the following:
    a. Any agreements executed or other understandings reached in connection with the initial acquisition or any subsequent acquisition of Mercedes-Benz shares by Li or Geely entities;
    b. Any agreements executed or other understandings reached in connection with any joint ventures, including, without limitation, the joint venture that operates Smart;
    c. Any shareholder agreements between Mercedes-Benz and Li or Geely entities;
    d. Any responsive documents relating to technology sharing, research and development, or procurement; and
    e. The agreement between Li or Geely entities and BAIC "that they will each keep their shareholdings in Mercedes-Benz Group AG below ten percent by divesting their shares on a pro-rata basis concurrently with [a 2023] share buyback."[13] Please also produce any correspondence related to the rationale or circumstances of this agreement.

[12] https://group.mercedes-benz.com/investors/reports-news/financial-news/20230216-share-buyback-programme.html
[13] https://group.mercedes-benz.com/investors/reports-news/financial-news/20230216-share-buyback-programme.html

3. Please produce a comprehensive timeline of Mercedes-Benz's dealings with BAIC, Mr. Li, Geely, and related entities. This should include, without limitation, the following:
    a. A description of how and why any such arrangement or partnership was first established or subsequently expanded, including information on which party initiated the outreach for the acquisition of Mercedes-Benz shares;
    b. A description of any contemplated arrangements or partnerships between BAIC entities or Li or Geely entities and Mercedes-Benz, including arrangements that were not ultimately pursued;
    c. A description of any actual or potential future arrangements or partnerships between BAIC entities or Li or Geely entities and Mercedes-Benz which are currently being discussed; and
    d. A description of each instance in which BAIC entities or Li or Geely entities suggested or otherwise participated in connecting Mercedes-Benz with a third party entity based in the PRC.

4. Please produce documents related to the role of BAIC entities or Li or Geely entities, or Mr. Li personally, in Mercedes-Benz operations or strategy.
    a. As you know, public reports indicate Li "sought to buy a Daimler stake as a way to access Mercedes-Benz technology for electric cars and trucks."[14] What access do BAIC entities or Li or Geely entities, or Mr. Li personally, have, or historically have they had or requested, to Mercedes-Benz (i) documents or records that are not a matter of public record, (ii) technologies, (iii) internal meetings that are not open to all shareholders, and (iv) senior leaders of the company?
    b. If any responsive access has been provided or requested, please produce a list of all responsive documents, records, technologies, meetings, and correspondence between such entities or persons and the company's senior leadership.
    c. Are there designated points of contact ("designated contact") within Mercedes-Benz that routinely communicate with BAIC entities or Li or Geely entities? If so, please provide their names and titles.
    d. Please produce copies of any correspondence, including letters, emails, text messages, or messages through applications that otherwise facilitate the exchange of electronic communications, between the following individuals within the five year period immediately preceding the receipt of this letter: (i) senior Mercedes-Benz leadership (defined to include the CEOs of Mercedes-Benz Group and Mercedes-Benz USA, as well as the CTOs of any Mercedes-Benz entity) or a designated contact (as defined above) and (ii) BAIC entities or Li or Geely entities, including Mr. Li personally.

[14] https://www.cnbc.com/2018/02/24/geely-chairman-builds-9-billion-stake-in-germanys-daimler.html

5. Excluding any document produced in response to Question 1 or Question 2, please produce a list of all agreements, contracts, memorandums of understanding, or other arrangements, whether formal or informal, between any Mercedes-Benz entity and a (1) PRC automaker, (2) PRC producer of automotive components, software, or other inputs for internal combustion or autonomous vehicles, (3) any PRC producer of LiDAR technology or other sensors, and (4) the PRC Government or its affiliates (inclusive of any entity that is a state-owned enterprise or which otherwise has PRC or provincial government ownership in excess of 10%).
    a. With respect to each agreement, contract, memorandum of understanding, or other arrangement, whether formal or informal, that contemplates joint research or development, technology sharing, or the use of a PRC component or product in a vehicle to be sold in the U.S or otherwise outside of the PRC, please produce copies of any responsive documents.
    b. In addition to lists and productions requested in this question, please provide a narrative description of the purpose and nature of the following:
        i. Mercedes-Benz's relationship with Hesai, including its role as a "strategic Lidar partner" and the actual or contemplated use of Hesai technology outside of China;[15]
        ii. Mercedes-Benz's relationship with Tencent and any actual or contemplated use of Tencent technology outside of China;[16]
        iii. Mercedes-Benz's relationship with Afari/Livan/Chongqing Qianli Technology Co. and any actual or contemplated use of such autonomous vehicle or other technology outside of China;[17]
        iv. Mercedes-Benz's relationship with Beijing-based Momenta and any actual or contemplated use of such autonomous vehicle or other technology outside of China;[18]
        v. Mercedes-Benz's use of PRC engines in current or forthcoming models.[19]

6. Please answer the following additional questions regarding Mercedes-Benz's integration with PRC supply chains and technology:
    a. With respect to each Mercedes-Benz vehicle sold or manufactured in the U.S., what parts, components, or other inputs are from the PRC? Please produce a full

[15] https://www.hesaitech.com/hesai-announced-as-strategic-lidar-partner-and-confirmed-supplier-for-mercedes-benz-l3-enabled-models/
[16] https://www.tencent.com/en-us/articles/2201837.html
[17] https://group.mercedes-benz.com/dokumente/investoren/praesentationen/mercedes-benz-group-2026-china-update.pdf
[18] https://www.bastillepost.com/global/article/5997256-mercedes-benz-ceo-cites-chinas-strong-tech-ecosystem-as-key-engine-for-auto-innovation
[19] https://autojosh.com/for-the-first-time-mercedes-is-using-a-chinese-engine-in-a-vehicle-intended-for-the-european-market/#google_vignette

list including a model-by-model breakdown of responsive parts, components, and inputs.

b. What research is generally conducted at your R&D facilities in Beijing and Shanghai, and has any such technology been used or been contemplated for use in a vehicle sold or manufactured in the U.S.? What safeguards exist, if any, to protect access to non-PRC research at these facilities?

7. Please answer the following additional questions regarding Mercedes-Benz's relationship with the CCP and PRC entities.
    a. When Mercedes-Benz apologized to the Chinese Communist Party for quoting the Dalai Lama in a 2018 promotional material, what was encompassed by its promise to "take practical actions to deepen our understanding of Chinese culture and values[?]"[20] What process does Mercedes-Benz have in place, if any, to ensure its statements comply with PRC censorship requirements?
    b. Has Mercedes-Benz communicated with, coordinated with, or otherwise strategized with any PRC entity regarding U.S. Government actions concerning the national security threat of PRC automobiles, including legislation pending before Congress? If so, please produce such communications and coordination.
    c. Please provide a list of each engagement your company's senior leadership has had with senior PRC Government leadership or senior leadership of a PRC technology or automotive company from 2010 to present.[21] Please provide a specific description of any conversation that contemplated the use of PRC products or technology outside of the PRC, or the global expansion of the PRC's automotive industry.
        i. In all cases where notes were taken during a conversation with senior PRC Government leadership, or there was a memorialization of such a conversation, please produce copies of such notes or memorialization. This includes any September 21, 2026 conversation with PRC Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao.
    d. Within the past 10 years, has any board director or company officer within Mercedes-Benz formally or informally expressed concern about the company's arrangements with BAIC entities, Li or Geely entities, other PRC entities, or the PRC?
        i. If so, please describe the concern and Mercedes Benz's response, and if applicable, produce a copy of any corresponding written submission or report.

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[20] https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2018/02/06/583671138/mercedes-benz-apologizes-to-china-after-quoting-dalai-lama-in-a-car-post

[21] https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-09-24/mercedes-ceo-travels-to-china-seeking-cutting-edge-partners-to-stem-sales-slide

Under House Resolution 5, the Select Committee has broad authority to investigate and submit policy recommendations on countering the economic, technological, security, and ideological threats of the Chinese Communist Party to the United States and allies and partners of the United States. Upon receipt of this letter, please preserve all documents, including electronic communications, in your custody or control or the custody or control of any aforementioned entity related to the subject matter of this investigation, and request the same of any entity which may store responsive documents or communications on your behalf.

Additionally, we request the opportunity to meet with Mr. Hoff and conduct in-person oversight of the aforementioned matters. Our staff will be in touch regarding scheduling.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John Moolenaar
Chairman

Ro Khanna
Ranking Member