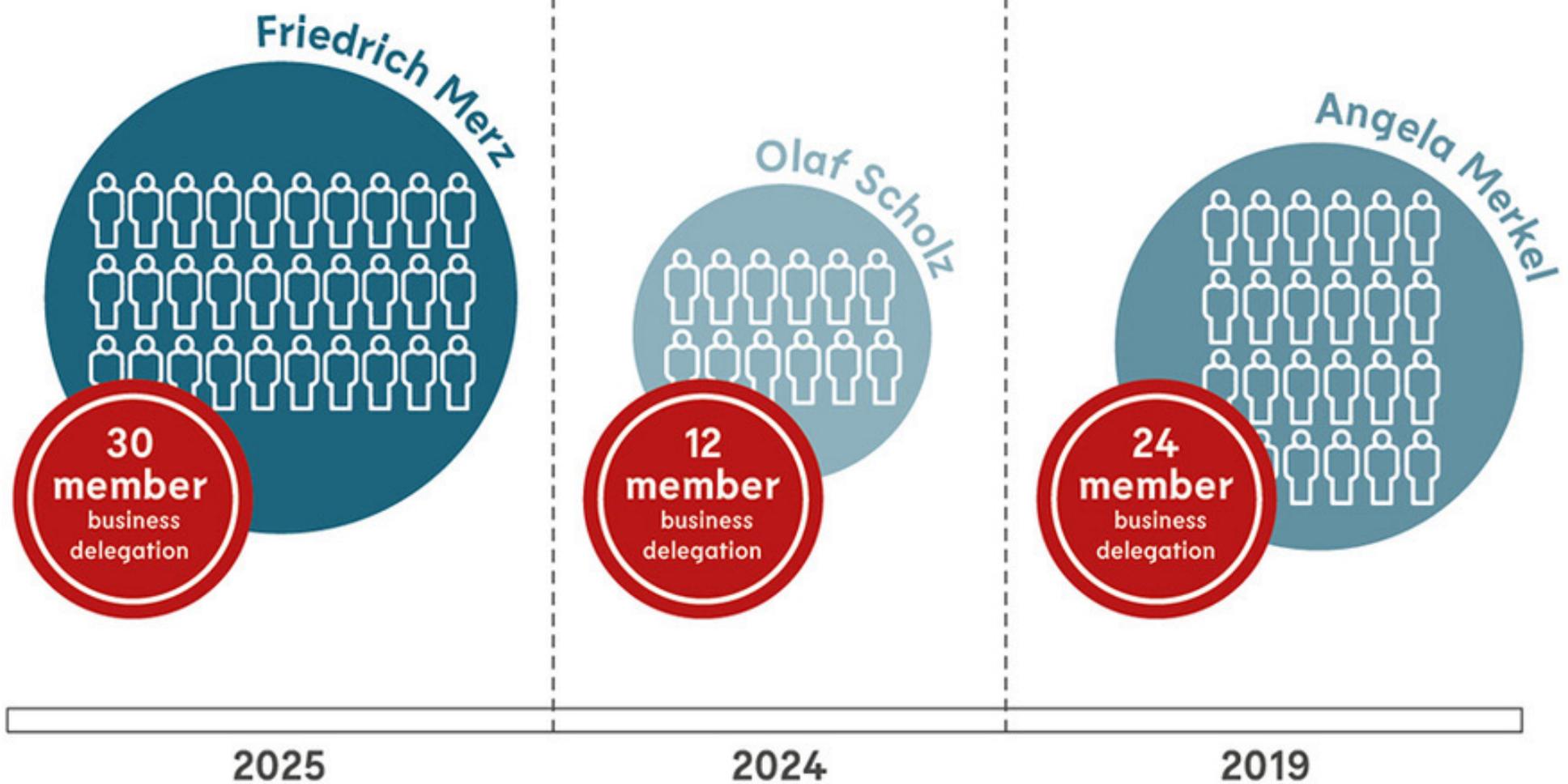


State visits: Business delegation size as a signal of intent



German chancellors' China visits: Size of business delegation



Weekly Facts & Figures.

- **Cooperative tone:** Merz adopted a softer diplomatic tone in Beijing to stabilize relations while acknowledging risks.
- **Trade imbalance:** China regained its position as Germany's top trading partner in 2025, with a trade deficit of about 90 billion EUR. This marks a fivefold increase in Germany's trade deficit with China since 2020.
- **Continuation of bilateral formats:** Germany and China plan to hold government consultations by early 2027 and continue their Dialogue Forum.

**What
This
Means.**

"Merz's cooperative approach was likely welcomed by Beijing, as China—dealing with weak consumption, industrial overcapacity, and U.S. unpredictability—has a clear interest in pragmatic economic ties with the EU."



Michaela Abels
Senior Advisor

Start the conversation.



michaela.abels@sinolytics.de



sinolytics.de