

Instances of Mainland China's Interference with Taiwan's International Presence , 2012

1.	2012	Taiwan was actively seeking to participate in the International Renewable Energy Agency; however, due to the interference of mainland China, such participation was restricted to observer status.
2.	January	Taiwan was due to participate in the 2012 International Tourism Trade Fair in Madrid under the name "Taiwan Tourism Association." Although Taiwan's mission in Spain had already endeavored, prior to the event, to ensure that Taiwan would attend under the name "Taiwan—Taiwan Tourism Association" in accordance with EU naming conventions, the organizer, citing "pressure from other agencies," asked for Taiwan's understanding by not attending under this name. Although there was ultimately no way of displaying either the country's formal name or "Taiwan" on the exhibition booth in the same manner that other countries had, the official program for the event had already been produced and displayed the name "Taiwan—Taiwan Tourism Association."
3.	February 7 & 22	Having been invited to speak at the European Council on Foreign Relations, Dr. Shen Lyu-shun, Taiwan's representative to the UK, was due to give an address on "President Ma's Next Four Years: The Next Stage of Cross-Strait Relations," expounding upon President Ma's philosophy of mutual nonrecognition of sovereignty, mutual nondenial of jurisdiction and related matters. However, at a press conference on February 22, Hong Lei, spokesman for mainland China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responded to a journalist's question by rebutting Dr. Shen's remarks, saying that "We do not object to nongovernmental economic, trade and cultural exchanges between Taiwan and countries that have diplomatic relations with us, but we oppose any official interaction or the signing of official agreements between them or Taiwan's participation in international organizations that are limited to sovereign states only," and also responded to

		the journalist by saying, “The remarks by some people in Taiwan you mentioned are a violation of and a challenge to the one-China principle universally recognized by the international community. It is wrong and very harmful.”
4.	April	On sending a team to participate in the Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions for the first time, mainland China requested that the organizer refer to Taiwan as “Chinese Taipei” in exhibition literature, even though it is a nonpolitical event.
5.	April 6-9	Prior to the IDEX dental expo in Istanbul, officials from the mainland Chinese Consulate-General in Istanbul exerted pressure upon the organizer, requesting changes to the name and layout of the Taiwanese exhibition area.
6.	April 27 – May 8	In attending the Concours Lepine in Paris, Taiwanese representatives were asked by the organizer, prior to the event, not to display the ROC flag inside the exhibition space owing to protests from representatives of Beijing. After Michael Ching-long Lu, Taiwan’s representative to France, communicated with the organizer, the organizer ultimately decided that no national flags would be permitted to be flown within event grounds at that year’s event.
7.	May	According to the organizer of Israel’s dragon boat festival, the mainland Chinese embassy in Israel submitted an unreasonable request to the organizer, and as a result the Taiwanese mission was informed that its team must not display the ROC flag, nor engage in any activities of a political nature.
8.	June	According to the organizer of the 14th Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival, the page in the festival program introducing the Taiwanese film <i>Low</i> originally included an image of the ROC flag; however, following objections from the mainland Chinese embassy in Israel, the image could not be published.

9.	July	As part of celebrations for the London 2012 Summer Olympics, hundreds of shops belonging to the Regent Street Association hung the national flags of the 206 competing nations along Regent Street, including the ROC flag. After encountering political pressure from mainland China, the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office was obliged to get involved and subsequently had the ROC flag removed, replacing it with the Chinese Taipei Olympic flag.
10.	October	For artist Chen Yang-chun's "Watercolor Panorama of Taiwan" exhibition in Madrid, the mainland Chinese embassy in Spain requested that the City Council of Madrid cover up logos describing the event's supporting unit as the "Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ROC."