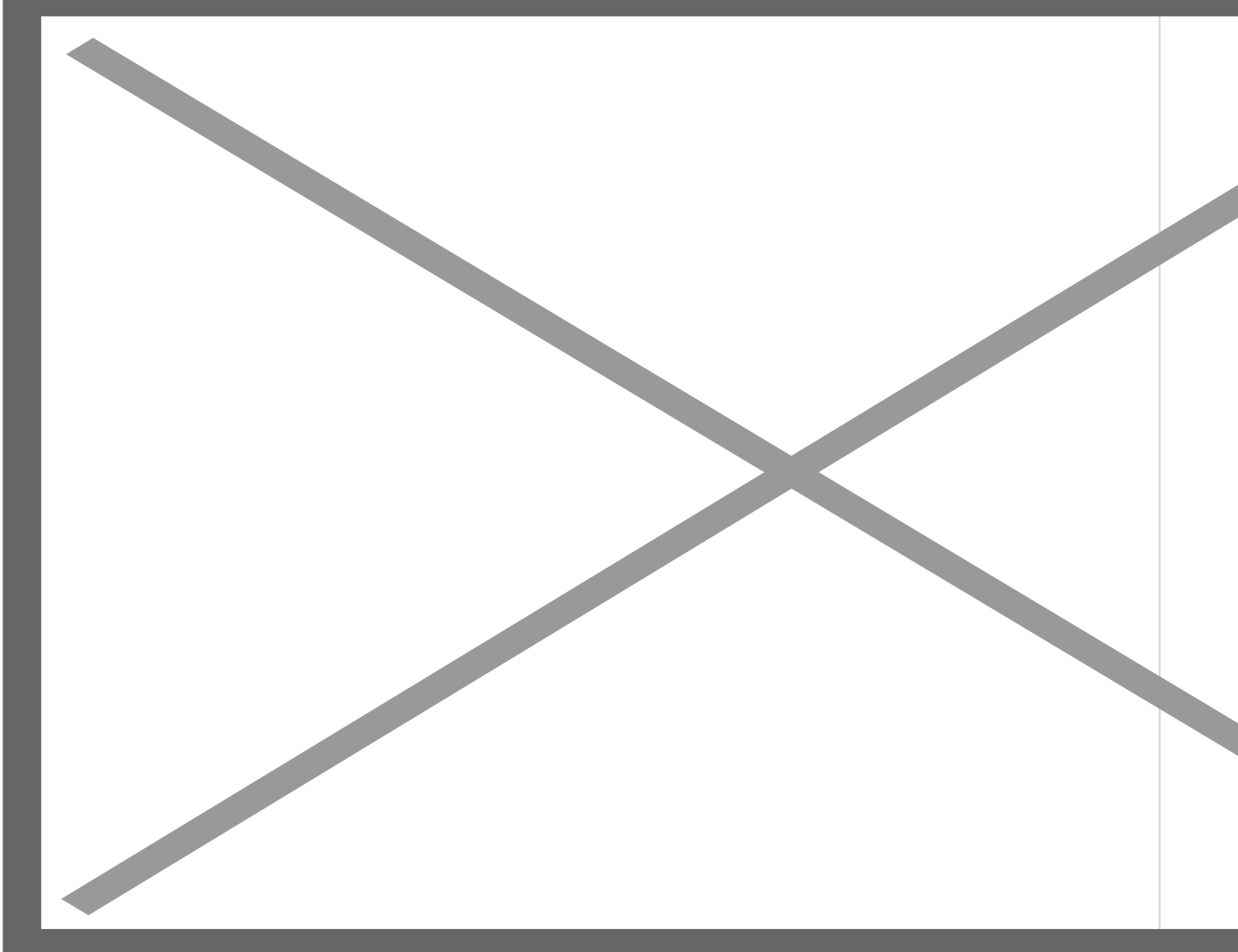


French minister defends independence from United States and ties to China

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Havana, April 11 (RHC) - French Economy and Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire on Tuesday advocated for the independence of his country and Europe from the United States, as well as improved relations with China, in the face of a block vision.

"We don't have to be caught between a rock and a hard place; we must build our own power. We are allies of the Americans, but we should not necessarily have the same strategic thinking on economic, financial and geopolitical issues," he stressed in statements to the Europe 1 radio station.

According to the senior official, considered number two in the government, although France and Europe share values and interests with Washington, that does not mean that they are against China.

Le Maire's comments are part of President Emmanuel Macron's recent visit to the Asian giant and his position on Taiwan, expressed on Sunday to the newspaper Les Echos.

For the head of state, Europe does not have to follow the United States or China, and must represent a "third pole".

In recent months, tension has grown around Taiwan, a Chinese territory, between Washington and Beijing, fueled by US visits to the island and its authorities to the northern country. Le Maire insisted that there is no reason to be part of the rivalry between the two superpowers. (Source: Prensa Latina)

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