

1st EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue

Joint Statement

Following the Joint Declaration on the European Union – China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue signed by EU Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn and Chinese Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang on the occasion of the 15th EU-China Summit on 20 September 2012, the 1st meeting of the EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue took place in Beijing on 21 November 2013.

The 1st meeting of the EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue was opened by EU Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn and by the Chinese Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang and co-chaired by Mr. Rudolf Strohmeier, Deputy Director General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission on the EU side and by Mr. Zhang Laiwu, Vice Minister of Science and Technology on the China side. The meeting saw the participation of high level EU and Chinese government representatives and stakeholders in the innovation area.

As illustrated by the EU Policy towards building an Innovation Union and the Chinese policy towards innovation driven development, the two sides reconfirmed their attachment of the greatest importance on innovation as a means of tackling social challenges and promoting sustainable growth. The two sides exchanged views on their respective innovation policies and discussed ways to enhance cooperation on research and innovation.

The discussion led to the following shared conclusions:

The two sides welcomed the launch of a new flagship initiative on Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology. This new initiative will ensure concrete, substantial and balanced joint research and innovation cooperation activities on selected priorities of common interest to be supported.

The two sides welcomed progress made on developing the Research and Innovation pillar of the EU-China Sustainable Urbanisation Partnership. Both sides have placed innovation at the core of their respective strategies to address the challenges that urbanisation creates. Topics of common interest in areas such as city planning, green transport, clean technology and sustainable energy are to be supported.

In respect of industrial innovation, substantial progress has been achieved in developing a framework for cooperation to promote closer collaboration in mutual economic and strategic interest between EU and Chinese industrial clusters of businesses, researchers and innovators.

The two sides welcomed the prospect of developing a joint initiative on aviation. In consultation with EU and Chinese industry, stakeholders' priorities of common interest are being identified and will result in joint EU-China calls for collaborative research and innovation projects.

Cooperation involving industry and research institutes on the information and communication technology will be enhanced through existing and further mechanisms. Key topics such as future telecommunications (5G), smart cities and internet of things will be explored.

The two sides have a shared interest in promoting predictable, transparent and effective framework conditions related to innovation. The two sides should continue to promote a level playing field with respect to research and innovation both in Europe and in China, and to work on lowering barriers to innovation and balanced research cooperation.

To pursue further the objectives of the Innovation Cooperation Dialogue as outlined in the Joint Declaration of 20 September 2012, the two sides agreed to set up an Expert Task Force on Innovation Cooperation to identify and promote successful practices in the EU and in China, and to report on the EU-China Joint S&T Steering Committee Meeting and the next Innovation Cooperation Dialogue.

The second meeting of the Innovation Cooperation Dialogue will take place in Europe in 2014.