



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Deputy Director-General (responsible for Directorates A and B)

Brussels, **19 FEB. 2013**  
JS/ks Agri.B.1(2013) 101251

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

We held the 7<sup>th</sup> EU-China Agricultural Dialogue more than a month ago and we had some time to reflect on our meeting and on our experiences from the field trip to Ireland. With this letter I would like to take stock and to share my thoughts on how I see our common work for the future, especially on expanding and implementing the EU-China Cooperation Plan in Agriculture and Rural Development that our ministers signed last June.

At our 7<sup>th</sup> Dialogue, we both emphasised the progress made in strengthening our agricultural relations in 2012, with the visit of Commissioner Ciolos in June and signature of that Plan being the most important highlights of the past year.

We then proceeded to note progress in the various areas of interest, as follows.

**Geographical Indications**

On Geographical Indications, I noted the success of the 10+10 pilot project. You also mentioned a possible pilot project on mutual recognition in this area. We are of course open for suggestions but we need to ensure any new initiative is coherent with the on-going negotiations for a bilateral agreement on Geographical Indications.

**Trade and Investment**

On trade and investment both sides mentioned a steady growth. From our side we raised our concern in relation to the BSE ban of imports of products concerned from the EU; in particular, I underlined that on standards and food safety the EU should be seen as a single entity, with a harmonised policy applying in all Member States, and that there is a scientific agency at EU level. We also presented the meat market developments in the EU, while from your side you singled out cooperation in livestock issues.

Mr. [REDACTED]

Department for International Cooperation  
Ministry of Agriculture, P. R. China  
No. 11 Nongzhanguan Nanli  
Beijing, China 100125

## **Food Security & Agricultural Reform**

Our exchanges on food security and the need to raise productivity in a sustainable way built on the discussions that were held in previous Dialogues. Our mutual presentations of agricultural reform were helpful for a better understanding. For your reference, I attach my presentation to this letter.

## **EU-China Cooperation Action Plan**

We noted that this Cooperation Plan will help both the EU and China to benefit from exchange of practice and innovative ideas through cooperation on specific projects. Specifically, I note the following issues from our Dialogue, based on which I want now to make a number of practical proposals to step up this cooperation:

On Rural Development we gave a presentation building upon the seminar in Tianjin in November, where mutual goals were identified. Examples discussed were the two projects already endorsed by the EU on climate change and environmental protection. We took good note of the Chinese emphasis on the need for resource-saving cooperation. We should encourage the rapid implementation now of these two projects

From the field trip to Ireland I took back some useful insights being offered on the LEADER experience, both in terms of financing and bottom up approach, and the Irish applied research on dairy, beef and food. This is all the more relevant as we noted that the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress highlighted the importance of integration of rural and urban areas policies.

Based on this encouraging progress, I believe it is important to work together to make the Cooperation Plan in Agriculture and Rural Development as well as other on-going cooperation activities a success. As you know, our cooperation is based on several pillars: seminars, exchanges and projects in the framework of the Policy Dialogues Supporting Facility (PDSF), the EU-China Trade project (EUCTP), the EU-China Task Force on Food, Agriculture and Biotechnologies Research led from the Commission side by the Research Directorate General, as well as bilateral activities between China and the EU Member States.

I propose therefore that we concentrate on the following main activities in the coming months before our next dialogue.

Under the PDSF we would like to see good progress in the two projects already endorsed (1 – Clean production technology practice and eco compensation for addressing climate change; 2 – Sharing and transfer of technology and experience in rural environmental protection). Other projects can be discussed in this framework, including in relation to the EU China water platform.

In the context of the EUCTP several projects are also being discussed, in relation to Geographical Indications, organic products and trade in olive oil.

In the framework of the Research Task Force, the EU-China strategic cooperation programme launched in 2012 covers the areas of agricultural productivity, growth, sustainability, scientific cooperation and quality policy, and we will need to cooperate

intensively in the months ahead as we move into the phase of precise project identification.

In addition to these on-going cooperation projects, possible new subjects of cooperation emerged both in Tianjin and at our Dialogue, such as quality standards, cross compliance (i.e. conditioning support to farmers on these meeting certain environmental standards), focus on the LEADER approach as well as on our work in view of the reform of the EU Agricultural Policy on the "greening" of income support. I would appreciate your views on how and when we take these proposals forward in 2013.

We would also like to discuss with you the PDSF project proposal by the Chinese Ministry on Environmental Protection on organic agriculture, which we have received a copy of. This proposal for a project on organic farming would be useful in view of the Memorandum of Understanding on organic equivalence which was signed last year.

My services are and will continue to be in contact with yours to focus on new mutually beneficial activities and to monitor the implementation of actions already agreed.

#### **Other Issues for Future Monitoring**

Our relations in agriculture are intensifying. In addition to the above cooperation activities, we will continue this year our talks for a GI agreement, and we should also further work on organic recognition, an action plan to combat the counterfeiting of European and Chinese wines and spirits, the possible Chinese project proposal on GIs, etc. While I understand that some of these issues do not directly fall under the competence of the Ministry of Agriculture, we must I think jointly monitor developments in these fields and work towards further inclusion of these subjects in our future discussions.

#### **Taking Stock**

In the autumn of this year I suggest we take stock of what progress has been achieved and prepare for our next Dialogue. From the discussions during the 7<sup>th</sup> Dialogue, I draw the conclusion that our future meeting could be more structured and result-oriented, so that it can really play the role of a forum to move forward on a number of important issues or identify possible obstacles. In addition, we identified the necessity to address in sanitary and phytosanitary issues as part of our Dialogue. We are willing to have a meaningful discussion on these subjects, with the participation and support of competent colleagues from both sides.

Normally, the 8<sup>th</sup> Dialogue will be held in China in late 2013 or early 2014. I suggest we discuss in due time the details and the agenda.

I am looking forward to your feedback on my stock taking and proposal for future activities.

Yours sincerely,



Loretta DORMAL-MARINO