Joint Statement
1st Meeting of China-EU Round Table
Beijing, 22 June 2007

1. The China-EU Round Table held its first meeting in Beijing on June 22, 2007.

2. H.E. Mr. Jia Qinglin, Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, met all the delegates before the opening of the first meeting and warmly welcomed the launching of the Round Table.

3. The Round Table is co-established by the China Economic and Social Council (CESC) and the EU Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in accordance with the Joint Statement of the 9th China-EU Summit released in Helsinki on September 9, 2006.

4. The Round Table will engage in consultations, dialogue and research on economic and social issues of common interest, on the basis of the cooperation agreements between the China Economic and Social Council and the EU Economic and Social Committee of 2002 and 2005, so as to promote economic development and social progress in China and the European Union. The Round Table will serve to strengthen contacts between the China Economic and Social Council and the European Economic and Social Committee. Exchanges within the framework of the Round Table are expected to lead to a better mutual understanding of the concerns and priorities of each side, and to reinforce the civil society dialogue between the two sides.

5. The Round Table is composed of 15 members from the China Economic and Social Council and 15 members from the European Economic and Social Committee. The Round Table will meet twice a year alternatively in China and in the EU.

6. The first meeting of the China-EU Round Table was co-chaired by Mr. Wang Zhongyu, Chairman of the CESC and Mr. Dimitris Dimitriadis, President of the EESC.

7. During the meeting, delegates from both sides carried out an extensive discussion and exchanged views on the theme “Climate Change and Sustainable Development” in an atmosphere of equality, frankness and friendship. The meeting has achieved fruitful results.

8. The Round Table insists on the importance of the three pillars of "Sustainable Development": the economic, social and environmental pillars. The Round Table considers Sustainable Development as a key element of economic, social and...
regional cohesion, and as a vision of solidarity between not only generations, but also countries and regions of the world.

9. The Round Table is convinced that full implementation of the concept of Sustainable Development will require political leadership. However, consultation and active involvement of organised civil society are necessary to achieve the objective of Sustainable Development.

10. The Round Table believes that "Climate Change" is one of the most important challenges facing the entire planet over the coming years and decades. Climate change will have an impact on many areas, such as infrastructure, energy supply, agriculture, forestry and fishery, industry, air quality, water use and health, but the scale of those consequences is still under discussion. The Round Table notes that organized civil society should have a key role to play in meeting the challenges of climate change.

11. The Round Table attaches great importance to a partnership between EU-China on Climate Change. It welcomes the existing dialogue and calls for intensification of this dialogue and of cooperation between EU and China. This partnership should contribute to promoting the consolidation of the multilateral process on climate change.

12. Both sides agree that the Round Table mechanism provides an important forum for the dialogue and exchanges between the CESC and the EESC, which helps enrich and develop the comprehensive strategic partnership between EU and China.

13. The Round Table agrees its next meeting to take place in the EU at an appropriate time in November 2007.

Zhongyu Wang
China co-Chairperson

Dimitris Dimitriadis
EU co-Chairperson

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