

Minutes of the Meeting between

**Mrs. Margot Wallström (Commissioner for Environment, European Commission) and
Mr. Xie Zhenhua (Minister, State Environmental Protection Administration, China)**

Beijing, 12 November 2003

At the invitation of Mr. Xie Zhenhua, Minister of State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) of China, Mrs. Margot Wallström, Environment Commissioner of the European Commission, visited China from 10 to 13 November, 2003. This visit marked the initiation of the EU-China Dialogue on Environmental Policy at Ministerial level. The two sides exchanged their views on furthering EU-China cooperation in the field of environmental protection.

I. Initiation of the EU-China Dialogue on Environmental Policy at Ministerial level

- The EU-China Summit of September 2001 agreed to establish an environment policy dialogue between China and the European Commission. During the 6th EU-China Summit held in Beijing on 30 October 2003, leaders reaffirmed their commitment to environmental protection and to an expanded dialogue in this area. At today's meeting both sides agreed that the meeting between European Commissioner for Environment and the Minister of the State Environmental Protection Administration symbolized the formal initiation of the China -EU Dialogue on Environmental Policy at Ministerial level.
- It was recognized by both sides that strengthening dialogue between senior officials in China and the EU on environmental policy was necessary and agreed that further discussion regarding content, format and participants of the EU-China Dialogue on Environmental Policy would be conducted as soon as possible.
- It was also agreed that political leaders' support for EU-China environmental cooperation was essential and that the results of the EU-China Dialogue on Environmental Policy should be reported to leaders on both sides.

II. Global Environmental Issues

- It was recognized that both sides are facing the challenge of addressing global environmental issues in order to achieve sustainable development and that the implementation of sustainable development policy was a common objective.
- Both sides stressed the tremendous challenges that lie ahead in order to accomplish the follow-up actions to the World Summit on Sustainable Development as well as the objectives and principles set out in the Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development, and were willing to make every effort to achieve them.
- Both China and the EU have signed the Kyoto Protocol and have made concrete efforts to address global climate change. Under the framework of Asia Europe Meetings (ASEM), both

sides have successfully convened the first and second ASEM Environment Ministers' Meeting and promoted environmental dialogue between Asia and Europe.

- China and the EU have a common goal in addressing global environmental issues such as biodiversity conservation, climate change and ozone layer protection, and are both willing to strengthen communication, consultation and coordination in this regard. Both sides support the international community in the pursuit of fair and equitable solutions and in the implementation of relevant international conventions.
- They agreed to cooperate to further develop and implement multilateral environmental agreements and to make contributions to global environmental protection by strengthening coordination. China appreciated the cooperative approach pursued by the European Union and supported its efforts in the field of international environment and development. Both agreed to strengthen consultation and coordination in important international institutions and organizations and to make joint efforts to promote synergies between environmental protection and economic development goals.

III. Review of Bilateral Environmental Cooperation

- Environmental protection and sustainable development is one of the key areas of EU-China cooperation. China attaches great importance to cooperation with the EU in this area as it believes that it is a critical component in furthering the EU-China relationship. The strengthening of environment dialogue is underlined in "China's EU Policy Paper" adopted by China on 13 October 2003.
- The EU side recalled that in its long "Long-Term Policy for EU -China relations " (issued by the European Council in 1995) and in its communication of 1998 " building comprehensive partnership with China and in the follow up communication on policies to China (issued by the European Union in May 2001), that strengthening dialogue on environment was an important measure and the promotion of sustainable development and environmental protection was seen as one of the three major fields for the EU's assistance to China.
- In its latest policy paper on China, "A maturing partnership – shared interests and challenges in EU-China relations", adopted on 13 October 2003, the EU proposes to promote EU-China collaboration on global environmental challenges, to strengthen existing policy dialogue on environment and complement it by implementing planned cooperation projects on environmental capacity-building and sustainable development.
- The EU side proposed a policy dialogue and information exchange on international environmental issues in the interest of both sides, and possibly the establishment of fruitful partnerships. The Chinese side expressed its appreciation of this proposal.
- With regard to bilateral cooperation, both sides reviewed a series of joint cooperation projects and agreed that these projects had obtained very positive results. For instance, the ongoing 5-year Liaoning EU Integrated Environment Project aims at restructuring the mixture of the industrial energy, improving energy efficiency and promoting local industrial restructuring through capacity building in local governments and implementation of cleaner production. The EU-China Environmental Management Project aims at raising China's environmental management capacity by implementing sustainable development policy, and the EU-China Automobile Exhaust Pollution Control Project has provided direct support to China in the formulation of related regulations and criteria.

- Both sides believed that cooperation in the field of the environment would have a positive influence by addressing global environmental issues, including climate change, biodiversity conservation, freshwater conservation and forest protection, and would serve as an example for regional cooperation on related issues. Both also believed that with the elaboration of China's environmental protection legislation and law enforcement management, increased market demand for advanced environmental protection technologies, and the impact of China's entry into the WTO, cooperation between the two sides would have much broader prospects.
- China expected to improve its abilities in decision-making, management and technical support in dealing with national, regional and global environmental issues. Further involvement by the EU in China's environmental protection market was welcomed in order to achieve the mutually beneficial objectives of environmental protection and joint development.

IV. Cooperation Priorities and further actions

- China welcomed EU significant contribution to capacity building on environmental protection of China.
- Taking into account the basic attitudes of mutual respect, strengthened communication, priority focusing and mutual benefits, and building on the current favourable climate of EU-China environmental cooperation, both sides were willing to add new vigour to their cooperation through increased joint efforts.
- Both sides made positive comments on the results of EU environmental assistance projects in China and welcomed the development of new cooperation projects. China underlined its priorities, inter alia in the following fields: environmental protection capacity building and human resources training; environmental protection in the Western Development of China; biodiversity conservation; watershed water resources programming; joint programs on automobile emission standards; and, studies on trade and environment.
- Both sides agreed to designate the coordinators as the focal points of EU-China Environmental Policy Dialogue. A Director General level official of the International Cooperation Department, SEPA, was designated as the Coordinator on the Chinese side and the Director for International Affairs DG Environment was designated as his counterpart on the EU side. They will be in charge of consultations and future arrangements, including the EU-China environmental Dialogue at Ministerial level.
- Both sides agreed to continue to encourage exchanges and cooperation between civil environmental protection organizations, to give full support to public participation and to encourage staff exchanges and visits.



Mrs. Margot Wallström
Commissioner for Environment
European Commission



Mr. Xie Zhenhua
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SEPA, China

国家环境保护总局解振华局长 与欧盟环境委员瓦尔斯特伦 会谈纪要

2003年11月12日,北京

应中国国家环境保护总局局长解振华的邀请,欧盟环境委员玛戈·瓦尔斯特伦一行于2003年11月10-13日访问了北京,启动了中欧环境政策部长对话,双方对进一步加强中欧在环保领域的合作交换了意见。

1、关于启动中欧环境政策部长对话

- 中欧领导人在2001年9月的会晤中同意建立中欧环境政策部长对话机制;2003年10月30日在北京举行的第六次中欧领导人会晤重申了领导人对环境保护和扩大在环保领域对话的承诺。中欧双方同意此次中国国家环境保护总局局长与欧盟环境委员的会面标志着中欧环境政策部长对话的正式启动。

- 双方意识到,加强中欧在环境政策领域的高层对话十分必要,同意尽快就中欧环境政策部长对话的内容、形式和参加人员等做出进一步的讨论和安排。
- 双方同意,中欧领导人对中欧环境合作的政治支持是必不可少的重要基础,中欧环境政策部长对话的结果应向中欧领导人报告。

2、关于全球性环境问题

- 双方认为中欧都面临应对全球环境问题、实现可持续发展的共同挑战,实施可持续发展政策是双方共同关心的问题;

- 双方认识到实施可持续发展首脑会议后续行动和里约热内卢环境与发展宣言所确定的目标、原则等面临的巨大挑战,并愿意就此做出各自的努力。

- 中、欧均已签署《京都议定书》,为解决全球气候变化问题做出了共同努力;在亚欧会议框架下,双方为成功召开第一届、第二届亚欧环境部长会议做出了共同努力,促进了亚欧两大区域的环境对话进程。

- 中欧在解决全球性环境问题如生物多样性保护、气候变化、臭氧层保护等

方面有共同的目标，愿意就此加强沟通、磋商与协调；支持国际社会寻求公正的、平衡的解决办法和履行相关国际公约。

-双方同意应通过加强协调，在多边环境协定的制定和实施方面进行合作，共同为了保护全球环境做出贡献。中方赞赏欧方在国际上奉行的合作政策，支持欧盟在国际环境与发展领域发挥更大的作用。双方愿意加强在重要国际机构和组织中的磋商与协调，共同推进环境保护与经济发展目标的协调。

3、 双边环境合作的回顾

-双方同意环境保护与可持续发展领域应是中欧合作重点领域之一，中方重视与欧盟在此领域的合作，视为进一步发展中欧全面关系的重要组成部分。中国 2003 年 10 月 13 日发布的“对欧政策文件”中也强调要加强中欧环境对话。

-欧方表明，1995 年欧盟通过的“欧盟和中国关系的长期战略”、1998 年“建立中欧综合伙伴关系”文件以及 2001 年 5 月欧盟发表的对华政策新文件中，都把加强环境领域对话作为重要措施，并提出把可持续发展和环境保护作为欧盟对华援助的 3 个主要领域之一。

-在 2003 年 10 月 13 日欧方通过的最新政策文件“成熟的伙伴关系—中欧共同的利益与挑战”中，欧盟倡议要促进中欧应对全球环境挑战方面的协作，加强业已建立的环境政策对话机制，并实施环境能力建设与可持续发展方面的合作项目。

-欧盟方面提议就双方感兴趣的相关国际环境问题开展政策对话和信息交换，并尽可能建立富有成效的伙伴关系；中方对此表示赞同。

-双方回顾了共同启动和实施的一系列合作项目，并一致认为这些项目成效显著。例如：正在实施的为期 5 年的辽宁欧盟综合环境项目，旨在通过帮助地方政府加强能力建设，实施清洁生产，改造工业能源结构，提高能源使用效率，促进地方工业结构调整；中国欧盟环境管理项目是为加强中国在实施可持续发展战略中的环境管理能力；中国欧盟机动车排放污染控制项目则为中国制订相关的法规和标准提供了直接支持。

-双方认为在环境领域的合作对解决气候变化、生物多样性保护、淡水资源保护和森林保护等全球性环境问题有积极影响，并将对相关问题的区域合作起到示范作用。双方相信，随着中国环境保护立法和执法管理的完善，市场对先进环保技术需求的增长，以及中国加入世界贸易组织等的影响，双方合作前景广阔。

-中方将逐步提高在应对全国性、区域性和全球性环境问题上的决策能力、管理能力和技术支持能力；并欢迎欧方进一步进入中国环保市场，达到保护环境，促进共同发展的双赢目的。

4、 优先合作领域及具体行动

-中方赞赏欧方对中国环境保护能力建设所做的贡献。

-双方愿意本着相互尊重、加强沟通、有所侧重、互利共赢的态度，在中欧环境合作现有的良好基础上，通过双方共同努力，为合作增添新的活力。

-双方积极评价欧盟对华援助环境项目带来的成果，期待开展新的合作项目。中方提出在以下领域优先发展合作项目：环境保护能力建设和人力资源培训、中国西部地区开发中的环境保护、生物多样性保护、流域水资源规划、机动车排放标准、贸易与环境问题的研究等。

-双方同意设立“中欧环境合作协调员”，中方指定国家环保总局国际合作司司长级官员为中方协调员，欧方指定欧盟环境总司国际事务处长为欧方协调员，负责磋商安排中欧环境政策部长对话等事宜。

-双方同意继续鼓励民间环保组织之间的交流与合作，发挥公众参与的作用，鼓励和支持双方人员交流与互访。



中国国家环境保护总局局长
解振华



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