

4th EU-China Policy Dialogue on Environment

Minutes of the Meeting between Mr. Janez Potočnik (Commissioner for Environment, European Commission) and Mr. Zhou Shengxian (Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection, China)

Brussels, 8th February 2012

At the invitation of Mr. Janez Potočnik, Commissioner for Environment, European Commission, Mr. Zhou Shengxian, Minister of Environmental Protection of China, visited Brussels on 8th February 2012. This visit marked the 4th EU-China Environment Policy Dialogue (Annex I: Agenda). The two sides exchanged views and had in-depth discussions on progress and strengthening the mechanism of policy dialogue on global environment issues, progress of the bilateral cooperation, and on future priority areas. The dialogue was held in two separate sessions:

- Dialogue at Ministerial level in the afternoon, chaired by Commissioner Potočnik from the EU side and Environment Minister Zhou Shengxian from the Chinese side, focused on multilateral and global issues;
- Dialogue at Director Level in the morning, chaired by Director Timo Makelä from the EU side and Director General LI Qingrui from the Chinese side, covering mainly bilateral cooperation.

EU participants included also Commissioner Potočnik's Cabinet members as well as members from the Environment Directorate General. (Annex II: List of EU participants)

Chinese participants included members from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and members of the Chinese Mission to the EU, including H.E. WU Hailong, newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to the EU. (Annex III: List of Chinese Participants)

I. Policy Progress

- The Chinese side briefed on latest developments in China's environmental policy and legislation, referring also to China's 12th 5 Year Plan and its environmental targets for building a resource-efficient and environment-friendly society. The Chinese side also introduced progress made on pollution prevention and control, on China's environmental protection industry, on sustainable consumption and production as well as on provision of basic environmental services.

II. Strengthening Mechanism of Dialogue

- The two sides agreed that the EU-China Environment Policy Dialogue is a valuable mechanism and they underlined importance of maintaining regular dialogue. It was also noted that EU-China Environment Policy Dialogue should be brought into the framework of EU-China Summit, and the outputs of the Dialogue should be continually reported to the leaders on both sides.
- Both sides commended the cooperative efforts given by both sides which ensured the successful implementation of several activities and projects

III. Global Environmental Issues

- Both sides recognized the challenge of addressing global environmental issues, protecting global biodiversity and achieving sustainable development.
- On biodiversity, both sides gave an update on follow-up to 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CoP 10) and current state of play of preparations towards CBD CoP 11. They referred also to resource mobilization, to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), to ongoing work in preparation of the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and upcoming international events.
- The two sides shared the views that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, in 2012 (Rio+20) offers an opportunity to enhance global cooperation on sustainable development. Both sides referred to their approach

on sustainable development and the importance of supporting the preparatory process of the Rio+20 Summit and to work cooperatively for the comprehensive, positive and pragmatic results of the Summit.

IV. Bilateral Environmental Cooperation

- Both sides reviewed the joint cooperation projects between the EU and China, and noted with satisfaction of the successful and fruitful results achieved up to now. The EU and China welcomed the future EU-China Environmental Sustainability Project, formulated in close consultation with the Chinese Ministry of Environment Protection. The project is aiming at supporting the Chinese authorities in their efforts of achieving environmental sustainability by reducing water and heavy metal pollution and implementing sustainable waste policies

V. Priorities and further actions

- The two sides stressed the need to enhance the environment policy cooperation on global environmental challenges, including the run-up to two major international events, notably CBD CoP 11 and the RIO+20 Summit.
- Both sides both sides agree on the need to develop a green economy and shift from quantity to quality of growth. They noted the role played by market instrument in environmental protection and underlined the importance of exploring future cooperation in the field of green economic policies.
- The EU and China share a common goal in addressing global environmental issues. Both sides underlined their priorities for possible future cooperation, *inter alia*, on issues such as green economy, resource efficiency, eco-innovation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable consumption and production, waste management, control of persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals such as mercury, ship dismantling, sound chemicals management, environmental technology verification and industrial cooperation. The two sides have a strong interest in furthering the exchanges and consultations in this regard.

VI. Conclusion

- Both sides were satisfied with the friendly atmosphere and fruitful outputs of this Dialogue.
- The Chinese side expressed its sincere thanks and appreciation for the efforts of the EU side in organizing the successful Dialogue.
- The EU side expressed appreciation to the Chinese side for coming to Brussels to address environmental problems of mutual concern.
- Both sides agreed to hold the next environmental policy dialogue in 2013 in Beijing.
- Done at Brussels on 8th February 2012, in duplicate in Chinese and English languages, both versions being equally authentic.



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