

## **The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EU-China Joint Steering Committee on S&T Cooperation Meeting Minutes**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of EU-China Joint Steering Committee on S&T Cooperation was convened on 13 December 2018 in Beijing. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Zhang Jianguo, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology of China, and Mr Jean-Eric Paquet, Director-General of the European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. Both sides indicated that on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Signing of the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the European Union, it is very timely to convene the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EU-China Joint Steering Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation to review the progress and achievements of cooperation between the two sides and explore new areas and ways to expand future collaboration. The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the development of EU-China scientific and technological innovation cooperation, believing that it has actively supported the EU-China comprehensive strategic partnership.

Representatives from the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Ministry of Water Resources, National Natural Science Foundation of China, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and the Chinese Mission to the EU, and representatives from the European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation and the Delegation of the European Union to China attended the meeting. The list of participants from both sides is in the annex.

### **1. Updates on China and EU research and innovation programmes**

Both sides exchanged the latest information on China and EU scientific research and innovation programmes. China introduced the latest situation of scientific research reform. The EU side presented the implementation of Horizon 2020 and the overall plan of Horizon Europe.

Both sides believed that the year 2018 is the key year for China to implement the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan, and also for the EU that has started planning for a new research and innovation funding programme "Horizon Europe", both creating new opportunities for the two sides to deepen collaboration in areas of joint interest and mutual benefit.

Both sides also exchanged views with regard to the framework conditions for cooperation on reciprocity, open access to publications and data, IPR, standards, and research integrity and ethics. Improvements with regard to EU access to China's R&D funding schemes were recognised, while recommendations were put forward for further improvement<sup>1</sup>. Both sides agreed to explore concrete recommendations on issues related to framework conditions under the EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue (ICD) scheduled to take place back-to-back with the 2019 EU-China Summit.

### **2. China-EU innovation collaboration progress and achievements**

Both sides exchanged on the progress and achievements of China-EU scientific research and innovation cooperation, and their respective views concerning innovation collaboration as well as the evaluation and implementation of the co-funding mechanism (CFM). They

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<sup>1</sup> including for example promoting foreign experts' leading and participation in projects, involving their access to project management, etc.

noted that since the 13<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee, the two sides have carried out pragmatic and fruitful research and innovation cooperation in a number of fields.

#### 1) Assessment and implementation of CFM

Both sides recognised the instrumental role of CFM in increasing EU-China collaboration in Horizon 2020, and proposed recommendations on improving the implementation of CFM with regard to its planning, simplification, clarity, transparency and communication to stakeholders.

#### 2) Implementation of flagship initiatives

Over the last years, both sides launched several Research and Innovation Flagship Initiative cooperation projects through joint identification of areas, joint release of calls for proposals and reciprocal funding. Both sides believe that such a progress will effectively expand the mutually beneficial cooperation between the two sides and enhance the results of the projects. The two sides are pleased to see the enormous work dedicated to cooperation in the following key areas.

In the area of civil aviation science and technology, based on the platform of expert exchanges and cooperation centred on technical directions of common interest, the two sides have supported a number of projects in the fields of additive manufacturing, green aviation fuels, and air traffic operation technology, and have set up examples of long-term cooperation. The EU-China aviation Task Force, which met last in Shenzhen on 3 November 2018, will plan orientations and theme of future collaboration with the support of the InnoVATe and ICARe co-funded projects.

In the field of food, agriculture and biotechnologies (FAB), both sides have conducted active cooperation in integrated plant disease and pest control, animal health and production systems as well as urban agriculture, jointly improved the predictability of global agricultural trade, and increased agricultural productivity and resource utilisation. Both sides welcomed the convening of the next FAB Task Force meeting that will discuss priority topics for future collaboration.

Both sides appreciated the positive collaboration under the EU-China flagship initiative on biotechnology for environment and welcomed the agreement on the Implementation Modalities for the years 2019-2020 between the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission and the National Natural Science Foundation of China. The EU side proposed additional possible collaboration in bio-remediation.

Both sides stressed the joint interest in environment and sustainable urbanisation to jointly address related challenges and support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The EU side would welcome further strengthening of cooperation possibilities in the context of multi-lateral initiatives, especially through the Belmont Forum.

#### 3) Multilateral activities

Both sides exchanged views with regard to multilateral cooperation mechanisms, and expressed willingness to strengthen cooperation under the multilateral cooperation mechanisms, including under the framework of the Ministerial Meetings of Mission Innovation on clean energy.

#### 4) EU-China RD-PUNE agreement

Both sides also recalled the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EU-China RD-PUNE agreement, took note of the progress under the agreement and encouraged further cooperation in nuclear R&D activities.

### **3. Suggestions for future cooperation**

- EU-China Research and Innovation Cooperation Roadmap

Both sides agreed to jointly set up an EU-China scientific research and innovation cooperation roadmap, and exchanged opinions on the preliminary structure of the roadmap. Both sides discussed the joint planning of the roadmap preparation, proposed areas of common interest for cooperation, so as to expand the number of areas, develop new partnerships, enrich mechanisms for project promotion and cooperation between researchers and innovators. Both sides agreed to create a joint team to work on the Roadmap which will be reviewed at the next EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue. The roadmap should be finalised by the end of 2019.

- Discussion on possible future collaboration areas

Both sides also conducted discussions on future cooperation and agreed to continue implementing the 2018-2020 flagship initiatives and to actively promote cooperation in more areas of common interest with the support of the CFM, such as:

- 1) Water resources

Both sides appreciated their collaboration in this area through the Europe-China Water Platform that supports policy dialogues, S&T exchanges and cooperation activities. They would welcome more in depth research and technology cooperation in this area.

- 2) Artificial Intelligence

Both sides exchanged information with regard to the latest development on relevant strategies, standards, governance as well as ethical and legal framework in artificial intelligence (AI).

- 3) Health

Both sides recalled the importance of cooperation within multi-lateral settings to address global major diseases. The Chinese side presented the latest research development in clinical medicines and major diseases. The EU side invited China to join the multilateral initiatives such as the Joint Programming Initiative on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) and the Traumatic Brain Injury research initiative and the International Consortium for Personalised Medicine (ICPerMed).

- 4) Basic research

Both sides presented their recent development on basic research and the collaboration under Horizon 2020, and expressed the intention to reinforce cooperation on key topics on bilateral basis such as brain science, and in the multilateral context, such as the Human Frontier Science Programme as well as through mobility of researchers. Both sides also underlined the importance of ethical issues for the neuroscience fields.

#### 5) Marine

The Chinese side presented the latest development in deep sea exploration, marine environment, development and utilisation of resources and scientific expedition. The EU side recalled the collaboration with China in marine environment research in Horizon 2020 and ocean data cooperation under the Ocean Governance Action.

#### 6) Space

Both sides welcomed the concrete cooperation under the EU-ESA-China Space Dialogue and within GEO, and agreed to explore other potential areas of collaboration such as sharing of satellite data, exchange of good practices, and respective Global Navigation Satellite Systems Application. The EU side requested to find an adequate solution to the frequency issue between Galileo and the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System.

#### 7) Mobility of researchers

Both sides stressed the importance of talent exchange in promoting cooperation in scientific and technological innovation and agreed to explore instruments to enhance balanced two-way mobility of researchers.

Both sides also discussed relevant arrangements for the renewal of the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the European Union. After consulting their respective legal services, both sides agreed to proceed with tacit renewal of the Science and Technology Agreement from now on.

### **4. Closing remarks**

The Steering Committee co-chairs summarised the meeting and expressed the common wish to strengthen and enhance cooperation.

## Annex

### List of Participants

#### List of participants from Chinese side:

1. Zhang Jianguo, Vice minister, Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)
2. Ye Dongbai, Director General, Department of International Cooperation, MOST
3. [REDACTED] Department of Resource Allocation and Management, MOST
4. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Department of Basic Research, MOST
5. [REDACTED] Department of High and New Technology, MOST
6. [REDACTED] Department of Science and Technology for Social Development, MOST
7. [REDACTED] Department of Foreign Expert Services, MOST
8. [REDACTED] Department of Foreign Talent Attraction, MOST
9. [REDACTED] Department of International Cooperation, MOST
10. [REDACTED] Mission of the People's Republic of China to the European Union
11. Chen Jiachang, Director General, China Science and Technology Exchange Centre
12. [REDACTED] China Science and Technology Exchange Centre
13. Wang Qi'an, Director General, National Centre for Remote Sensing
14. Xie Min, Director General, National Centre for Science and Technology Evaluation
15. Xia Bing, Director General, China Association for International Exchange of Personnel
16. [REDACTED] Department of International cooperation, National Natural Science Foundation of China
17. [REDACTED] Department of Equipment Industry, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology
18. Li Ge, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Science and Technology, Ministry of Water Resources
19. Gong Xifeng, Director General, Department of International cooperation, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
20. [REDACTED] Chinese Aeronautical Establishment
21. [REDACTED] Division of European Affairs, Department of International Cooperation, MOST
22. [REDACTED] Division of European Affairs, Department of International Cooperation, MOST
23. [REDACTED] Division of European Affairs, Department of International Cooperation, MOST
24. [REDACTED] Department of High and New Technology, MOST
25. Dong Keqin, Director, China Science and Technology Exchange Centre
26. [REDACTED] China Science and Technology Exchange Centre
27. [REDACTED] National Remote Sensing Center of China
28. [REDACTED] National Centre for Remote Sensing
29. Yang Yun, Director, National Centre for Science and Technology Evaluation, MOST
30. [REDACTED] National Centre for Science and Technology Evaluation, MOST
31. [REDACTED] China Association for International Exchange of Personnel
32. [REDACTED] Department of International cooperation, National Natural Science Foundation of China

33. Luo Jie, Director, Department of Equipment Industry, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology
34. Hao Zhao, Director, Department of International cooperation, Ministry of Water Resources
35. [REDACTED] Department of International cooperation, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
36. [REDACTED] Chinese Aeronautical Establishment
37. [REDACTED] Interpreter

**List of participants from the EU side:**

1. Jean-Eric Paquet, Director-General, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission
2. [REDACTED] Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission
3. [REDACTED] Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission
4. [REDACTED] Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission
5. [REDACTED] Delegation of the European Union to China
6. [REDACTED] Delegation of the European Union to China
7. [REDACTED] Science and Technology Section, Delegation of the European Union to China
8. [REDACTED], Communications Networks, Content and Technology Section, Delegation of the European Union to China
9. [REDACTED] Maritime Affairs, Fishery and Transport, Delegation of the European Union to China
10. [REDACTED] Climate Action and Energy, Delegation of the European Union to China
11. [REDACTED] Policy Officer for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Delegation of the European Union to China
12. [REDACTED] Trade & Investment Section, Delegation of the European Union to China
13. [REDACTED] Improving EU Access to National and Regional Financial Incentives for Innovation in China (Phase II)
14. [REDACTED] Science and Technology Section, Delegation of the European Union to China
15. [REDACTED] Science and Technology Section, Delegation of the European Union to China
16. [REDACTED] Science and Technology Section, Delegation of the European Union to China
17. Interpreter