

## **Joint Conclusions of the 12th China-EU Joint Steering Committee on S&T Cooperation**

The 12th China-EU Joint Steering Committee on Science and Technology Cooperation took place in Ministry of Science and Technology on 30th October, 2015 under the co-chairmanship of Chinese Vice Minister of Science and Technology Dr. CAO Jianlin and European Commission Director General for Research and Innovation Mr. Robert-Jan Smits. The meeting saw the participation of representatives from Ministry of Science and Technology, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Torch High Technology Industry Development Center on the Chinese side, and from the European Commission Directorates General for Research and Innovation and EU Delegation to China on the European side.

**1. The meeting was opened by Vice Minister CAO Jianlin and DG Robert-Jan Smits making speeches and welcoming all present to the 12<sup>th</sup> China-EU Joint Steering Committee.**

**2. VM CAO and DG Smits introduced respectively the latest science, technology and innovation (STI) policies both in China and the EU.**

**3. Both sides exchange ideas about the framework conditions of STI cooperation.**

### **A. China-EU Co-funding Mechanism.**

*To implement the co-funding mechanism (CFM) agreed at the last Innovation Cooperation Dialogue and endorsed by the 17<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit, MOST on the Chinese side and DG Research and Innovation on the EU side discussed and approved the guidelines on application, evaluation, funding, and monitoring and assessment of project proposals.*

### **B. Reciprocal access to STI funding programmes**

*Both sides discussed the importance of improving access to respective STI programmes and adopted a joint roadmap on the promotion of participation rules based on equal treatment, the regular exchange of data on actual participation*

*and the provision of timely and clear information to participants.*

#### **C. China-EU exchange of young scientists.**

*Both sides agreed to develop possible new initiative to bring together selected young scientists in short-time study visits and networking activities, for example, seminars, internship, and summer school, especially at the occasion of high events.*

#### **4. Innovative cooperation: China-EU innovative cooperation of SMEs.**

*In order to promote synergies between Chinese and the EU SMEs, including the relative science parks and young entrepreneurs, we discussed the possibility of promoting a stronger participation of SMEs in the projects funded through the CFM.*

#### **5. Thematic cooperation and future prospects in priority areas.**

*Both sides reviewed the main achievements in cooperation in the past few years providing examples of successful initiatives and projects.*

##### **A. China-EU cooperation on FAB.**

*[REDACTED] from CAAS made a presentation of the past cooperation between China and the EU on FAB under the framework of China-EU Joint Steering Committee. [REDACTED] put forward 3 pieces of suggestion that we should give full play to the group of FAB, set up high level research platform on FAB, and promote FAB to be a key area in China-EU STI cooperation. The European side responded actively.*

##### **B. China-EU cooperation on sustainable urbanization, environment, and climate change.**

*Both sides agreed to enhance the practical cooperation between China and EU on sustainable urbanization, environment, and climate change.*

##### **C. China-EU cooperation on PUNE and renewable energy.**

*We organized the 4<sup>th</sup> PUNE Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October, reaching a consensus in the 2011-2014 work report, hearing reports from FCA, SS, FU and NS. Both sides looked back the successful cooperation of NZEC and agreed to revive the joint task force set up in 2010.*

#### **D. China-EU cooperation on Research Infrastructure.**

*Both sides reviewed the successful stories and good practices and lessons learned from past cooperation. They discussed opportunities for cooperation on Research Infrastructures and new initiatives for deepening cooperation including the organization of a workshop in 2016.*



**European Commission (EC) / Ministry of Science and Technology  
(MOST) Co-funding Mechanism for Years 2016-17 - Guidelines**

**I. Application**

1. The European Commission will issue calls for applications under the framework of Horizon 2020. The Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016/17 published on 14 October 2015 contains calls with a number of topics targeting specifically China. The great majority of all other calls/topics are open to participation of Chinese entities. Deadlines are published in the Calls.
2. MOST is expected to issue calls for applications twice a year (with one deadline for each call), one call/deadline will be in the first half year, the other in the second half year.
3. MOST and the EC will provide financial support through the co-funding mechanism to successful applicants that passed the evaluations from both sides in the following Horizon 2020 areas:
  - a. Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies (ICT, nano, new materials, biotechnology, manufacturing and processing, space)
  - b. Societal Challenges (health, food/agriculture, energy, transport, climate/environment, inclusive societies)
  - c. Future and Emerging Technologies
  - d. Research Infrastructures
  - e. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions/Research and Innovation Staff Exchange
  - f. Nuclear Energy
4. The project duration should normally be not more than 5 years except under exceptional circumstances agreed by both sides.

**II. Evaluation of Project Proposals**

1. Both sides will evaluate and select the proposals from applicants for funding according to their respective rules.
2. The evaluation criteria will be based on the following:
  - a. *The extent to which the existing strengths of each side may complement each other in the proposal;*
  - b. *Opportunities for training young researchers;*
  - c. *Credentials of project teams; and*
  - d. *Significance on the social and economic development to both sides.*

### **III. Funding**

1. The EC and MOST will fund selected applicants according to their respective rules, regulations and practices.
2. MOST will reserve an annual budget of up to 200 Million RMB, and the EC will reserve an budget of up to 100 Million Euro to be allocated to research and innovation project grants and mobility grants. The per-project ceiling of MOST research and innovation project grants is 5 Million RMB.

### **IV. Monitoring and Assessment**

1. After informing coordinators of the positive evaluation of their Horizon 2020 research proposals, the Commission will invite China-based applicants to apply to MOST for possible co-funding if need be.
2. The China-based applicants will apply for MOST funding in accordance with MOST rules. Each application to MOST should be submitted by the one or more China-based applicants in each Horizon 2020 project, with one of these applicants nominated as the China-based Principal Investigator (PI). The application should be prepared in accordance with the template provided by MOST and submitted through respective institutions.
3. Commission services will provide MOST on a regular basis information on the successful Horizon 2020 proposals retained for funding with China-based participants (detailed information on the selected projects involving Chinese partners i.e. project title, abstract, acronym, budget, partners involved). This typically takes place 5 months from the deadlines of the relevant H2020 calls, while the conclusion of the grant agreement is foreseen within the following three months.
4. MOST will notify the Commission no later than three months after each deadline the results of the evaluation of all applications received in the framework of the CFM from China-based partners in successful Horizon 2020 proposals.
5. On a yearly basis both parties will exchange aggregated statistics on applications received and the full list of projects retained.
6. MOST and the EC will treat information received by the other side with greatest confidentiality.

## **Elements of a Joint EC-MOST Road Map on Ensuring Reciprocal Access To Respective Research and Innovation Funding**

### **I. Promotion of participation rules based on equal treatment**

1. All legal entities established in China (mainland) are eligible to the CFM call under the same rules as for domestic applicants.
2. All legal entities established in China (mainland) are eligible to Chinese calls for National Key R&D Projects.
3. All legal entities established in China (mainland) are eligible to Chinese calls for National S&T Major Projects.

### **II. Regular exchange of data on actual joint funded project**

1. Aggregated data on participation in Submitted Research/Innovation Proposals are shared on a basis every six months.
2. Data on participation in Selected Research/Innovation Proposals including budget information are shared on a regular basis every six months.

### **III. Provision of timely and clear information to participants**

1. CFM Calls should have deadlines not less than 50 days from the date of call launch.
2. All Chinese calls for National Key R&D Projects and National S&T Major projects should have deadlines not less than 50 days from the date of call launch.
3. Information is centralised on a single web portal including relevant guides for non-Chinese potential applicants.

### **IV. Overall Monitoring**

Progress on the above is reviewed and discussed at the annual Joint S&T Committee Meeting, and when necessary the items above mentioned could be modified.