



JOINT STATEMENT ON THE THIRD ROUND OF THE EU-CHINA HIGH LEVEL PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE DIALOGUE

BRUSSELS, 15 SEPTEMBER 2015

The third round of the EU-China High-Level People-to-People Dialogue (HPPD) was held on 15 September 2015 in Brussels, in the presence of Madam Liu Yandong, Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China and Mr. Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport.

The HPPD is the third pillar of EU-China relations, and together with the other two existing pillars – the High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue and the High Level Strategic Dialogue - plays a significant role in building EU-China partnerships for peace, growth, reform and civilization. The HPPD covers education, multilingualism, culture, youth and gender equality. The two leaders shared the view that the HPPD is an important contribution to celebrating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the EU and China.

In their dialogue the two leaders took stock of the positive results of the HPPD so far.

In the field of education, multilingualism and researchers' mobility, both sides welcomed the growing number of students and doctoral candidates participating in respective exchange schemes and of joint projects, notably thanks to the international opening and the new capacity building component of the Erasmus+ programme, the increasing popularity of the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions and the attractiveness of China Scholarship Council's and Hanban's grants.

In the field of Science and technology, both sides valued the EU-China Cooperation on science, research and innovation, supported to hold the EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue and welcomed further cooperation between universities, research institutes and enterprises.

In the area of culture, both sides acknowledged the success of the policy dialogue in the field of cultural and creative industries and the need to create real cooperation opportunities between cultural operators, including through the EU "Creative Europe" programme. The "Mapping of EU-China cultural and creative landscape" was recognized as a first joint attempt to identify trends and opportunities of EU-China cultural cooperation.

In the youth sector, both sides recognized the value of joint projects supported by respective programmes (Erasmus+ and Chinese youth partnership for friendship programme), the regular organization of Policy and Expert Seminar on issues relevant to youth, web-based cooperation, exchanges and cooperation between All-China Youth Federation (ACYF) and European Youth Forum (YFJ).

In the field of gender equality, both sides fully recognized the implication of realizing gender equality for social development. By co-organizing the first China-EU thematic panel on women under the HPPD, the two sides shared policy experience and best practice on safeguarding women's rights and interests and promoting gender quality, vigorously promoting China-EU women's exchanges and mutual learning.

Based on positive results up to now, both sides agreed on the HPPD's future perspectives:

In the field of education and researchers' mobility, both sides will continue to support respective mobility and cooperation programmes, to encourage academic cooperation and to promote EU studies in China and Chinese studies in Europe. Both sides will ensure the holding of annual EU-China Higher Education Platform meetings and foster the dissemination of EU-China joint initiatives aimed at making respective higher education systems more comparable and compatible.

In the area of culture, both sides will continue to support policy dialogue in the field of cultural and creative industries, cooperation amongst festivals and coproduction of films and television programmes. Further activities will be pursued (as a follow-up to the "Mapping of EU-China cultural and creative landscape") in the three major areas of cooperation, namely cultural heritage, Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs) and contemporary art.

In the youth sector, both sides will continue to support respective youth programmes, the regular organization of Policy and Expert Seminar on issues relevant to youth, web-based cooperation, exchanges and cooperation between All-China Youth Federation (ACYF) and European Youth Forum (YFJ).

In the field of gender equality, both sides will continue to foster discussions on specific aspects of gender equality (economic empowerment for women, women's political participation, violence against women, work-life balance) and share of policy experience and best practice, by co-organization of symposia and support to exchanges between and training for relevant organizations.

FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**FOR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF CHINA**



Tibor NAVRACSICS
*Commissioner for Education, Culture,
Youth and Sport*



Liu YANDONG
Vice Premier of the State Council