

## **Joint Communiqué of the Second Meeting of the EU-China High-Level People-to-People Dialogue**

The second meeting of the EU-China High-Level People-to-People Dialogue is held on September 6, 2014 in Beijing, capital of the People's Republic of China. The Chairperson from the EU side, Madam Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth Affairs, and the Chairperson from the Chinese side, Madam Liu Yandong, Vice Premier of the State Council, (hereinafter referred to as Both Sides) jointly host this meeting.

Both sides reiterate the consensus reached by Leaders of the European Union and H.E. Mr Xi Jin Ping, President of the People's Republic of China, during his visit to the EU headquarters from March 31, 2014 to April 1, 2014, that considering economic globalization, both parties are communities with highly integrated interests, and the EU-China relationship is vital and strategic. Mutual trust and cooperation are essential to developing this relationship. While the EU and China are implementing the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation and building a partnership for peace, growth, reform and civilization, People-to-People Exchanges is especially important and will play an increasingly central role.

Therefore Both Sides agree to seize this important opportunity – at the start of a new era in the EU-China relationship - to deepen their cooperation in education, research mobility, culture, media, youth and women. By thus expanding their High-Level People-to-People Dialogue, Both Sides aim to deepen mutual understanding and trust and give new momentum to the EU-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Both Sides agree that the main priority for developing the High-Level People-to-People Dialogue is to focus on a number of joint projects, share best practice and promote the people-to-people exchanges organized by governmental and non-governmental organizations. Both Sides agree that this common endeavour will gradually build foundation for shared understanding, learning and prosperity between their peoples.

For this purpose, Both Sides will strengthen their cooperation in the following fields.

## I. Education

Both Sides recognise the important role that educational cooperation and exchanges can play in the High-Level People-to-People Dialogue and agree to enhance their cooperation based on equality and mutual benefit, and intensify efforts in agreed priority fields.

Both Sides will:

- Strengthen the current education policy dialogue and take full advantage of the EU-China Higher Education Platform for Cooperation and Exchange to accommodate existing cooperation mechanisms such as the EU-China Cooperation Platform for Engineering Education and other future initiatives; they will encourage higher education institutions in the EU and China to collaborate in teaching, research and innovation, and to deepen their relations.
- Further expand the exchanges of students and scholars, encourage and support more students, scholars and young researchers, to study, teach and carry out research in each other's region and for this purpose will increase scholarships and explore new ways for the Chinese institutions to participate in the EU's education and research exchange programmes.
- Explore the possibility to discuss the scope for cooperation in school education and vocational education and training, and exchange best practice in these areas.

In addition, as Both Sides attach great importance to linguistic and cultural diversity, they will intensify cooperation and people-to-people exchanges in these fields.

## II. Researcher mobility

Both Sides attach great importance to researcher mobility and will explore avenues and propose collaboration possibilities to increase mutual participation in schemes for the longer-term exchange of young researchers.

Both Sides will take full utilization of existing cooperation mechanism to promote longer-term and sustainable exchange of researchers.

### III. Culture

Both Sides recognise the importance of strengthening cultural cooperation and exchanges as a means to deepen people-to-people contacts and mutual understanding. They reaffirm their common interest in developing their cultural and creative industries, protecting and developing cultural heritages, encouraging new forms of creativity, and providing policy support for collaboration and exchanges in these fields. As signatories of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Both Sides will learn from each other and try to protect and promote the cultural diversity throughout the world.

Both Sides will continue to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the media and audiovisual sectors. Both Sides will also cooperate to host film and TV festivals as well as encourage professional skills development through training and seminars.

### IV. Youth

Both Sides recognise that youth groups play an important part in the High-Level People-to-People Dialogue and are central to the long term strategic relationship between the EU and China. By further intensifying their youth exchanges and cooperation, Both Sides aim to deepen the mutual understanding of the two peoples and build a strong social and cultural platform for the long term development of the EU-China relationship.

Both Sides will continue to organise youth dialogues in the form of policy and expert seminars on topics relevant for youth and encourage Europe-China Symposia on Youth Work Development.

Both Sides encourage and support youth organisations and institutions at all levels to carry out exchanges and cooperation, and to further expand the coverage of youth exchanges between Europe and China.

Both Sides will continue to enhance their cooperation using communication and media platforms to increase the impact of youth exchanges.

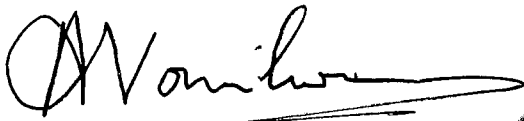
V. Gender equality and rights of women

Both Sides will encourage dialogue and cooperation on gender equality and rights of women.

This document, which does not intend to create legally binding obligations between the two sides, is signed in Beijing on September 6, 2014 in duplicate, both in English and Chinese. Both versions have equal validity.

**FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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



**Androulla Vassiliou**

Commissioner for Education, Culture,  
Multilingualism and Youth Affairs



**Liu Yandong**

Vice Premier of the State Council