Memorandum of Understanding on China-EU High-Tech Trade Working Group between the Ministry of Commerce of The People's Republic of China and the Directorate-General for Trade of The European Commission

With a view to fostering China-EU trade in high-tech products and enhancing China-EU trade and economic cooperation level and thereby achieving mutual benefit, the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "MOFCOM") and the Directorate-General for Trade of the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as "DG Trade") agree, after friendly consultations on May 21, 2010 in Brussels, to launch the mechanism of China-EU High-Tech Trade Working Group (hereinafter referred to as "the Working Group").

First, the functions of the Working Group include: studying and formulating recommendations to address the concerns of both sides in the process of developing high-tech trade, including focusing on how existing possibilities of trade in high-tech goods can be maximized to mutual benefit. This should entail consultations with industry in relevant sectors to establish and further the best conditions for such bilateral trade to flourish. The working group should also focus on areas for enhancing high tech trade between China and the EU.

The Working Group will also ensure the timely exchange of information on existing and planned regulations and technology licensing.

Both sides remain open to formulating corresponding policies within their capacities. In respect of IPR protection, both sides intend to propose concrete measures to address issues that hamper existing possibilities for trade in high technology between China and the EU and support bilateral
trade in high technology development, including with a view to addressing legal issues that are relevant to trade in high-tech goods.

Second, the coordinator of the Working Group on the Chinese side is MOFCOM (the Department of Mechanic, Electronic and High-tech Industry), and on the EU side DG Trade (Directorate for Services and Investment, Bilateral Trade Relations).

Third, the Working Group shall convene annually in principle, alternating between China and the EU. Each side may invite the participation of relevant departments according to the meeting agenda. The two sides agree to convene the first meeting of the Working Group in the autumn of 2010.

Done in duplicate in the Chinese and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Ministry of Commerce of The People's Republic of China
For the Directorate-General for Trade of The European Commission