

## **JOINT DECLARATION**

Of

Mr. Ján Figel', Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth  
European Commission

And

Mr. Zhou Ji, Minister for Education  
People's Republic of China

### **European Commission and the Government of the People's Republic of China wish to reinforce cooperation in the fields of education and vocational training.**

European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Mr Ján Figel' and Minister for Education, Mr Zhou Ji, have declared their willingness to further strengthen cooperation between the European Commission and the People's Republic of China in the fields of education and vocational training. They made this declaration during the official visit of Commissioner Figel' to the People's Republic of China which took place from 18 to 23 October 2007.

The European Commission and the Chinese Government acknowledge the crucial contribution of education and vocational training in the development of the global knowledge-based economy. Enhancing cooperation is important in order to improve mutual understanding and to strengthen their respective situations in a global economy and in a global society.

Commissioner Figel' and Minister Zhou recalled the intentions of the EU-China Summit Joint Statement held in Helsinki on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2006 which recognized that the strengthening of educational cooperation served as the social and cultural foundation for the sustainable development of the EU-China comprehensive strategic partnership. The Joint Statement called both sides to conduct deeper and wider educational cooperation, jointly discuss the mechanism and priorities for future cooperation and make effort to institutionalize such cooperation.

Commissioner Figel' and Minister Zhou recalled the ongoing negotiations for a more comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and China and stressed the importance of including within the Agreement specific references to education.

With regard to the initiatives that were suggested in the 2003 Joint Declaration between Commissioner Reding and Minister Sun, Commissioner Figel' and Minister Zhou welcomed the success of the Erasmus Mundus programme launched since then, its specific China Window and the related informal Contact Group activities.

They noted the importance of promoting the use of existing instruments and of supporting cooperation projects, concerning for example PhD candidate placements, exchanges of students, joint masters degree programmes and, in that context, language teaching.

Taking into account these positive developments, Commissioner Figel' and Minister Zhou jointly declared the following intentions:

- The European Commission and the People's Republic of China decide to set up a structured policy dialogue on education and vocational training affairs. It will cover issues of common interest such as lifelong learning policies, including language learning, sectoral cooperation and mobility, and any other relevant issues jointly identified.
- The policy dialogue will consist of regular exchanges of experience and best practice, reviews of policy developments and challenges and promoting knowledge building and sharing on horizontal and sectoral issues of interest for the European Community and China. This framework will notably help further mutual recognition of academic degrees and diplomas of accredited higher education institutions between China and the member states of the European Union, taking account of the European Commission's competences on this issue.
- The policy dialogue will also include discussions concerning existing and future cooperation on issues jointly identified. Within this framework, both sides will continue to support language teaching and will encourage research and sport cooperation with universities through existing instruments and new initiatives.
- Both sides will jointly set up a rolling work programme for the dialogue and cooperation on education and vocational training, regularly review its implementation and discuss avenues for future cooperation. To this end, senior officials from both sides will meet in principle once a year with the venue alternating between Brussels and Beijing or any other venue agreed by both sides. Other occasional meetings may be held as necessary. Both sides will jointly coordinate the meetings and nominate senior officials as co-chairpersons. Both sides will produce agreed conclusions after each meeting.
- Specific events such as seminars, workshops and expert meetings may be jointly organized at a later stage with the participation of relevant stakeholders.
- Both sides will bear their own delegation's cost of participation in the dialogue and cooperation. The cost of agreed specific events will be decided in consultation between both sides.

The organization and the determination of the priorities described above will be mutually arranged by the European Commission's Directorate General for Education, Training, Culture and Youth and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China.

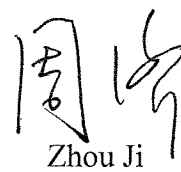
The provisions of this Joint Declaration express political intent and are not designed to create legal rights or obligations under international law.

This Joint Declaration is signed in Beijing on the 22 of October 2007.



Ján Figel'

European Commissioner  
for Education, Training, Culture and Youth  
European Union



Zhou Ji

Minister for Education  
People's Republic of China

## **JOINT DECLARATION**

Of

Mr. Ján Figel', Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth  
European Commission

And

Mr. Sun Jiazheng, Minister for Culture  
People's Republic of China

### **European Commission and the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China wish to reinforce cooperation in the field of culture.**

European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Mr Ján Figel' and Minister for Culture, Mr Sun Jiazheng, have declared their willingness to further strengthen cooperation between the European Commission and the People's Republic of China in the field of culture. They made this declaration during the official visit of Commissioner Figel' to the People's Republic of China which took place from 18 to 23 October 2007.

The European Commission and the Chinese Ministry of Culture acknowledge the crucial contribution of culture to improve mutual understanding and tolerance, and believe that enhancing cooperation is important in order to strengthen their respective situations in a global society.

Commissioner Figel' and Minister Sun recalled the intentions of the EU-China Summit Joint Statement held in Helsinki on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2006 which recognized the significance of cultural diversity for sustainable development and supported increasing cultural interaction and relations between the EU Member States and China.

Commissioner Figel' and Minister Sun recalled the ongoing negotiations for a more comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and China and stressed the importance of including within the Agreement specific references to culture.

With regard to the initiatives that were suggested in the 2003 Joint Declaration between Commissioner Reding and Minister Sun, Commissioner Figel' and Minister Sun welcomed the ratification by the European Community and China of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

They noted the importance of promoting the use of existing instruments and of supporting cooperation projects concerning for example the Community Culture Programme Special Action with China in 2007-2009.

Taking into account these positive developments, Commissioner Figel' and Minister Sun jointly declared the following intentions:

- The European Commission and the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China decide to set up a structured policy dialogue on cultural affairs. It will cover issues of common interest such as the promotion of cultural diversity, cultural industries, and any other relevant issues jointly identified.

- The policy dialogue will consist of regular exchanges of best practice, reviews of policy developments and challenges, promoting knowledge building and sharing on cultural issues of interest for the European Community and China.
- Both sides will jointly set up a rolling work programme for the dialogue and cooperation on cultural policies, regularly review its implementation and discuss avenues for future cooperation. To this end, senior officials from both sides will meet in principle once a year with the venue alternating between Brussels and Beijing or any other venue agreed by both sides. Other occasional meetings may be held as necessary. Both sides will jointly coordinate the meetings and nominate senior officials as co-chairpersons. Both sides will produce agreed conclusions after each meeting.
- Specific events such as seminars, workshops and expert meetings may be jointly organized at a later stage with the participation of relevant stakeholders.
- Both sides will bear their own delegation's cost of participation in the dialogue and cooperation. The cost of agreed specific events will be decided in consultation between both sides.

The organization and the determination of the priorities described above will be mutually arranged by the European Commission's Directorate General for Education, Training, Culture and Youth and the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China.

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This Joint Declaration is signed in Beijing on the 22 of October 2007.

Ján Figel'  
European Commissioner  
for Education, Training, Culture and Youth  
European Union

Sun Jiazheng  
Minister for Culture  
People's Republic of China

中华人民共和国文化部部长孙家正

与

欧洲委员会教育培训文化和青年事务委员

扬·菲格尔

联合声明

中华人民共和国文化部与欧洲联盟欧洲委员会愿在文化领域加强合作。

中国文化部部长孙家正和欧盟教育、培训、文化和青年事务委员扬·菲格尔宣布，双方愿进一步加强中国与欧盟在文化领域的合作。这一声明是在2007年10月18日至23日菲格尔委员正式访华期间作出的。

中国文化部和欧洲委员会认同文化在促进相互了解和包容方面的重要贡献，并相信为巩固各自在全球化社会中的地位而加深双方合作是十分重要的。

孙部长和菲格尔委员回顾了2006年9月9日在赫尔辛基召开的中国——欧盟峰会上发表的联合声明中所表达的意愿。该联合声明确认了文化多样性对于可持续发展的重要意义，并支持增进中国与欧盟成员国之间的文化互动和相互关系。

孙部长和菲格尔委员提到了中国与欧盟间正在进行的内容更全面的《中欧伙伴合作协定》的谈判，并强调在

该协定中包含文化内容的重要性。

关于 2003 年孙部长和雷丁委员签署的联合声明中的有关动议，孙部长和菲格尔委员对中国和欧盟批准加入 2005 年联合国教科文组织通过的《保护和促进文化表现形式多样性公约》表示欢迎。

他们注意到加强运用现有的手段并支持合作项目的重要性，如欧盟文化项目 2007—2009 中国特别行动。

考虑到这些积极的发展，孙部长和菲格尔委员共同声明如下意愿：

— 中国文化部与欧洲委员会决定建立一个关于文化事务的框架性政策对话机制，它将涵盖双方共同关注的议题，如促进文化多样性、发展文化产业以及其他双方认可的相关议题。

— 政策性对话将包括定期交流成功范例，回顾政策的发展及其面临的挑战，加强对中国与欧盟共同关心的文化议题的汇总并共享。

— 双方将联合制定一个关于文化政策的对话与合作的滚动式工作计划，对实施情况进行定期评审，并讨论未来合作的途径。为此，原则上，双方高级官员将轮流在北京和布鲁塞尔举行年度会晤，会议也可在双方认可的其他地方举行。其他临时性会议可根据需要酌定。双方将共同协商举行会议的事宜，并提名高级官员担任联席主席。每

次会议后将提出双方认可的结论性意见。

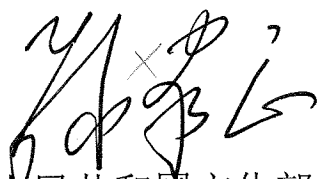
— 在合作后期共同组织由相关人员参加的特别活动，如研讨会、研习班、专家会议等。

— 双方将负担各自代表团参加对话与合作项目的费用。举办双方认可的特别活动的费用将由双方协商决定。

上述特别活动的组织工作和确定事宜将由中国文化部和欧洲委员会教育、培训、文化和青年事务总司共同协商安排。

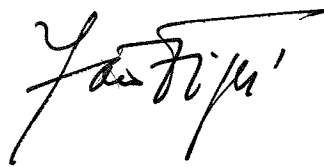
本联合声明的条款仅表达了政治意愿，不具有在国际法框架下的法律权利和义务。

本联合声明于 2007 年 10 月 22 日在北京签署。



中华人民共和国文化部

部 长



欧洲联盟欧洲委员会

教育培训文化和青年事务委员