

**Minutes of 6th plenary meeting of the Consultation mechanism on
industrial products and WTO/TBT between
DG Enterprise and Industry Directorate General of the European
Commission and
the Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of
the People Republic of China.**

On 24 October 2007, Director General Heinz Zourek of the Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry of the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as the European side) and Vice – Minister WEI Chuanzhong of the General Administration for Quality Supervision Inspection and Quarantine of the People’s Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the Chinese side) co-chaired the 6th Plenary Meeting of the EU-China Consultation Mechanism for Industrial Products and WTO/TBT.

Agenda:

- Opening remark and review of cooperation by both sides
- Presentation of 7 working groups: pressure equipment, medical devices, cosmetics, conformity assessment, electrical and mechanical products, textiles and chemicals.
- Exchange of views on the "List of deliverables"
- Toys safety issues
- Next year programme

In its welcoming speech, the vice Minister WEI Chuanzhong firstly welcome DG Zourek with his group to hold the sixth Plenary Meeting together. VM Wei pointed that as bilateral trade continue to grow, the European Union has become the most important trade partner for China, which illustrates that the mechanism has taken very important effects for the development of bilateral economy and trade during the last six years.

VM Wei emphasised that the Chinese government attaches high importance to the product quality and safety problems. The State Council has recently founded “a leading working group on products quality and food safety”, in which Vice Premier WU Yi works as Director and Minister

LI Changjiang (the Minister of AQSIQ) works as Vice Director. Right until now and for more than four months, the group has worked on “the special clear-up activity for product quality and food safety

VM Wei pointed out that improving the level of product quality and safety is a common task faced by international society. The Chinese government would like to work with all other countries and to strengthen the communication and cooperation between each other.

VM Wei views is that the “Consultation Mechanism on Industrial Products and WTO/TBT between AQSIQ and DG Enterprise” is a very good platform boosting both sides to eliminate misunderstandings related to the technical regulatory measures applicable to industrial products and to procure common sense by dialogue and communication.

VM Wei expressed concern about the EUP Directive and the REACH regulation which may have an impact on Chinese exports to EU.

In its introductory speech, DG Heinz Zourek underlined that this was the first meeting of the Consultation mechanism he co-chaired with Vice –minister Wei Chuanzhong and that he was confident that the good cooperation with AQSIQ would continue as in the past.

He stressed the importance the European side attaches to the Consultation mechanism and thanked all the participants for their work and their commitment towards our dialogue.

He underlined that the 6th Plenary Meeting intervenes at a crucial moment as more than ever we realize the utility and necessity of our regulatory dialogue.

He mentioned recent cases related to the safety of products which have raised numerous questions in Europe. At the same time, the same voices expressed concerns with regard to the trade deficit vis à vis China .

He said that this is the duty of our dialogue to provide answers and remedies to those questions and concerns. The "list of deliverables" which both parties are committed to accomplish forms part of this continuous cooperative process which should lead to more safety for the products as well as a greater convergence or harmonisation of our respective technical regulatory framework.

The dialogue has contributed to establish a growing mutual confidence which remains unchanged and which we want to further strengthen. He called for more joint actions and for more cooperation between all parties involved to achieve more transparency, safety and better results in the fight against counterfeiting and the free movement of products.

Issues discussed:

1. Working groups report

Both parties highly appreciated the cooperation between DG Enterprise and AQSIQ in 2006 and 2007 as well as the cooperation within each working groups.

The seven working groups presented a short report of their activities and action plan for the months to come. The WG have taken stock of the progress accomplished since last year and discussed the content of the list of deliverables. They have agreed upon their respective action programme including joint seminars, technical assistance, ad hoc training, etc ...

The parties agreed that the new WG Automobile will conduct cooperation on regulations and standards in the area of automobile products, the liaison person for EU side is Mr G Mattino, for Chinese side is Mr. Liu Shiyuan.

Both parties considered very positively the venue of the 2nd Market Surveillance seminar to take place on 25th October with AQSIQ, DG Enterprise and Industry and DG Sanco.

2. The "List of deliverables"

The parties recalled that the principle of the list of deliverables was agreed between MM Li Changjiang and Verheugen in September 2006. They both considered that the dialogue should deliver concrete outcomes. As a result the parties prepared the list of deliverables which represents their work plan for 2007 and 2008.

The list has been jointly established between the parties and signed on Oct. 24th 2007 in Beijing. Both side noted that some actions have been realized already or are under way. The list includes four parts which are Conformity Assessment, Market Surveillance, Administrative procedures and Standardization.

Both sides agree to complete the actions listed in the "list of deliverables" by the next plenary meeting in 2008.

3. Toys Safety issues

The European side made reference to the Guidelines for Action on co-operation for Strengthening EU-China Toys Safety between DGs ENTR/SANCO and AQSIQ aiming at ensuring a high level of safety of toys manufactured in China which were signed on 19 September 2006 in Brussels by VP Verheugen and AQSIQ's Minister Li Chianjiang.

The Guidelines list the type activities to be organised between DG ENTR, DG SANCO and

AQSIQ within the limits of each DG responsibilities: DG ENTR is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the EU legislation on the safety of toys and the system of safeguards notification and DG SANCO operates a rapid alert system (RAPEX) providing information on dangerous non-food consumer products (including dangerous toys).

A number of specific actions are foreseen in the Guidelines such as exchange of information on safety rules and standards, exchange of information on safeguard notifications under the Toy Safety Directive and RAPEX notifications, the organisation of toy safety seminars and training of AQSIQ personnel to improve enforcement activities.

The European side informed AQSIQ that the Commission will table by the end of the year 2007 a proposal on a revised Directive in order to strengthen the safety requirements of the Directive, to clarify its scope and concept and to improve the effectiveness of its enforcement. The final adoption of the revised Directive is expected by end 2008/1st half of 2009.

As part of the implementation of the Guidelines, a Workshop on toy safety is planned in China in 2008 after the Commission has presented its proposal for a revised toys directive

Chinese side points out that the Chinese government has realized the importance of toy safety and strengthened quality supervision on toy exports this year. They have adjusted and improved the license (registration) system for toy exports, established a recording and tracing system for high risk raw materials, such as paint and PVC; readjusted the mode of inspection and supervision and implemented the testing and recording requirements of safety items for “the first one” product. For some crucial safety items such as small parts, lead content, paddings & fillings, they have increased the ratio of random inspection.

Chinese side hopes that two sides could take advantage of the Consultation Mechanism established between DGs Enterprise and SANCO and AQSIQ more adequately to address the issues realistically and practically via negotiation and investigation in order to further our close coordination. Both sides should avoid drastic measures so as to promote the smooth and healthy development on trade between EU and China.

China Government will firmly crack down on the illegal practices of a small number of individuals who escape export control and supervision. Since most of Chinese toys exported abroad are OEM products, Chinese side do hope that the brand owners in EU could further improve their design and strengthen their supervision over the acceptance of the OEM products as well as provide sufficient regulatory information to Chinese partners.

4. Next steps

Both sides agreed to hold Market Surveillance seminar and EUP seminar again next year.

Chinese side informed that the Liaison person of AQSIQ will be Mr.Li Wei. (liw@aqsiq.gov.cn).


Both Parties agreed that next plenary meeting will be held in Brussels in the second semester of 2008.

Participants list : see Annex 1

Detailed accounts of the WG are attached in annex 2.

The minutes are signed on 24 October in English and Chinese, both versions being equally authentic.

For Mr.Heinz Zourek



Director General,
Directorate General for
Enterprise and Industry
European Commission

For Mr. Wei Chuanzhong



Vice-Minister
General Administration of
Quality Supervision, Inspection,
and Quarantine of the
People's Republic of China

Participants

EU side:

Heinz Zourek, Director General
Philippe Jean, HoU
Luis-Filipe Girao, HoU (Textiles), G4
Klaus Berend, HoU (Chemical), G2
Maria Spiliopoulou-Kaparia, DHoU (E&M products, Conformity Assessment),
Laurent Selles, DHoU (Medical devices), F3
Giacomo Mattino, DHoU (Automobiles), F1
Dominique Grosjean, Administrator
Luc de Meyer, Administrator (Chemical), G2 GSM: 00 32 495/75 50 33
Fabrizio Sacchetti, Administrator (E&M products, Conformity asst, TBT, Toys), I2
Ivone Kaizeler, Administrator (Textiles), G4
Hans D'Hooge, Administrator (Construction & Pressure Equipment), I5
Rita L'Abbate, Administrator, (Market surveillance&RAPEX), C1
Roman Mokry, Administrator (Medical devices), F3

Chinese Side:

Wei Chuanzhong, Vice Minister
Wang Xin, Director General, Department for Supervision on Inspection, AQSIQ
Xie Jun, Deputy chief Administrator, CNCA
Chen Gang, Deputy chief Administrator, SAC
Li Haiqing, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, AQSIQ
Li Chaowei, Deputy Director General, Bureau of Import and Export Food safety, AQSIQ
Cui Gang, Deputy Director General, SESA, AQSIQ
Bo Yumin, Director, CNCA
Liu Shiyuan, Director, Department for Supervision on Inspection, AQSIQ
Yu Qunli, Director, Department for Supervision on Inspection, AQSIQ
Song Xiushun, Director, Department for Supervision on Inspection, AQSIQ
Bi Kexin, Director, Bureau of Import and Export Food safety, AQSIQ
Zhang Baofeng, Director, Department of International Cooperation, AQSIQ
Yang Wanshan, Deputy Director, Department for Supervision on Inspection, AQSIQ
Li Jun, Deputy Director, SESA, AQSIQ
Fan Chunmei, Deputy Director, SAC
Dong Hui, Officer, Department for Supervision on Inspection, AQSIQ