The 14th meeting of the Joint Steering Committee of the EU-China Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation took place in Beijing on 13 December 2018 under the co-chairmanship of European Commission Director General for Research and Innovation Mr Jean-Eric Paquet and Chinese Vice-Minister for Science and Technology Mr Zhang Jianguo.

The two parties went through framework conditions for cooperation, the implementation of the Co-Funding Mechanism (CFM), and thematic areas including aviation, Food, Agriculture and Biotechnologies (FAB), biotechnologies and biomaterials, environment, sustainable urbanisation and Mission Innovation. Topics of potential future collaboration were also raised such as water, artificial intelligence (in particular ethical aspects), health, marine, and space. There were also talks on personnel exchange and mobility and an agreement to develop a common cooperation roadmap.

The two sides also indicated their intention to renew the EU-China Agreement on Science and Technology cooperation that is due to expire by the end of 2019.

Representatives from the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Water Resources, the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the China Science and Technology Exchange Centre, the National Remote Sensing Centre, the National Science and Technology Evaluation Centre, the China International Talents Exchange Centre, the Chinese Aeronautical Establishment, the Chinese Mission to the EU, the European Commission...
Directorate-General for Research and Innovation and the Delegation of the European Union to China attended the meeting.

Director General Paquet also had a series of courtesy meetings with representatives from the National Natural Science Foundation (NSFC), the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The four meetings were opportunities to take stock of the present collaboration, present Horizon 2020 and the future plans for Horizon Europe and its international dimension, and exchange views on possible future cooperation.

In the EU-China Conference on Sustainable Urbanisation organised by the Horizon 2020 project Urban EU-China, Director General Paquet delivered a keynote speech and awarded a prize for the collaboration between the cities of Manchester and Wuhan. He also attended the 5th Science Slam event organised by EURAXESS in China and delivered a prize to a young researcher to visit Europe.

More information

- EU and Chinese officials meet to discuss research collaboration (EEAS Press release)
- 中欧官员举行科研合作会谈 (EEAS Press release – Chinese version)
- Press release from the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People’s Republic of China (in Chinese)