

**JOINT DECLARATION**

**ON THE**

**EUROPEAN UNION - CHINA**

**INNOVATION COOPERATION DIALOGUE**

**15th EU-China Summit - Brussels 20 September**

*Considering;*

The signing of the Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the European Union on 22 December 1998, which has been renewed on 8 December 2004 and subsequently on 30 November 2009;

The Joint Press Communiqué of the 14th EU-China Summit in Beijing on 14 February 2012 indicating that both Sides will promote the effective development and deployment of technology innovative solutions to major societal challenges of common interest;

The consensus reached in May 2012 between Vice Prime-Minister Li Keqiang and President José Manuel Barroso on establishing a mechanism for EU-China cooperation in innovation;

The opportunity to advance EU-China cooperation in innovation based on the existing partnership, following the principles of mutual benefit and common interest;

*The European Union and the Government of the People's Republic of China intend:*

- To initiate a high level EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue;
- To create an official platform for exchanges and cooperation on innovation between both Sides. Under this mechanism, the two Sides intend to discuss innovation strategies, jointly encourage and support cooperation on research and innovation activities, and to fully involve industry, universities and research institutes, so as to complement mutual strengths and deliver 'win-win' results in the areas of human resources, skills, technology, research infrastructures, financing of innovation, exploitation of research findings, entrepreneurship and framework conditions for innovation.

*Both Sides intend to implement the following practical arrangements:*

- The dialogue is not intended to replace or replicate but should complement and ensure synergy with the Joint Steering Committee of the EU-China Science and Technology Agreement, existing bilateral Dialogues in the area of innovation between the Member States of the EU and China, as well as other existing Dialogues established in the areas of the economy, trade and people-to-people exchanges.
- The Dialogue will be held on an annual basis and should report to the EU-China Summit.
- On the EU Side, the Dialogue should be led by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, and composed of representatives from other relevant services, with the Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science as its chair.
- On the Chinese Side, the Dialogue should be led by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China. Other relevant governmental departments should designate senior officials to attend the Dialogue based on the themes under discussion. The Minister of Science and Technology should be the chair on the Chinese Side.
- Representatives from enterprises, universities and research institutes may also be invited to the Dialogue.

*The Dialogue should focus on the following objectives:*

- Share experiences and best practices in defining, implementing and assessing a broad-based policy approach to innovation, and on specific issues such as framework conditions that bring about innovation;
- Address major economic and social challenges through innovation by focusing and strengthening cooperation on challenges of common interest (e.g. low carbon energy systems, energy efficiency, sustainable and resilient cities, green transport, water, space technologies, active and healthy ageing, health safety and security, Information & Communication Technologies and maritime issues, disaster prevention, response and relief);
- Develop in a synergistic way cooperation on different aspects related to the development (research) and the deployment (framework conditions) of innovative solutions;
- Identify and address horizontal issues such as innovation in strategic emerging industries, including with a view to facilitating SME internationalization on both Sides.

The Innovation Cooperation Dialogue should be carried out with the resources which can be made available by both Sides, following modalities to be jointly defined and in accordance with the relevant rules and procedures of both Sides.

The Sides do not intend this Declaration to create any legal rights or obligations under international law.

Signed in Brussels on the 20th September 2012, in two originals, in English and in Chinese, both texts being equally authentic.

**FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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



**Máire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN**

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**Commissioner for Research and Innovation**

**Minister for Science and Technology**