

## **2<sup>nd</sup> EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue**

**Brussels, 29 June 2015**

### **Joint Statement**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> EU-China Innovation Co-operation Dialogue (ICD-2) took place in Brussels on 29 June 2015 back to back with the 17<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit. ICD-2 was co-chaired by the EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas and by the Chinese Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang with the participation of high level EU and Chinese government representatives and stakeholders in the innovation area.

Recognising that a global open innovation ecosystem without unnecessary obstacles to innovation and cooperation across borders can be of great mutual benefit and that science and innovation are important drivers of economic and social development, the two sides reaffirmed their intention to work together towards open innovation systems, better access to each other's research resources and programmes, more research cooperation in strategic priority areas, and increased mobility of researchers.

ICD-2 discussed respective innovation policies and how to deepen and broaden cooperation between China and Europe on research and innovation as one of the pillars of the overall 40-year long EU-China relationship. The two sides agreed that collaborating on research and innovation as equal partners through balanced investment in strategic areas of common interest way was of the greatest importance for addressing global challenges and promoting sustainable growth.

Both sides recognised that the EU-China 1998 Agreement on Science and Technology cooperation renewed tacitly in December 2014 for another five-year period, has provided a good framework for win-win cooperation and that the EU China Joint Steering Committee on S&T Cooperation that last met on 11 June 2014 allowed for constructive dialogue and the identification of common priorities in the areas of Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology, Sustainable Urbanisation including Energy, Transport, Environment and ICT, Aviation, Fusion and Fission research, and Space Technology and Earth Observation. They also welcomed the report of the joint experts' task force on innovation and acknowledged the need to continue working on the improvement of innovation framework conditions to create a level playing field that encourages European and Chinese researchers and innovators to work together and across borders.

Both sides reiterated that the protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) are crucial for their innovation-based growth strategies, and agree on the critical importance of having their cooperation based on a solid and comprehensive IPR framework that applies in a fair and transparent, manner. Both sides take due note of the reinforcement of the EU-China IP Dialogue Mechanism in today's EU-China Summit, and commit to establish a regular exchange and cooperation with this mechanism for enhancing the scientific and technological innovation and economic development in both China and the EU.

Considering the aim of the Paris Conference of the Parties (COP21) for more stringent commitments to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, the two sides commit to enhance their collaboration on climate-related scientific research and cooperation on technology innovation, including the

development and deployment of low-carbon technologies, and adaptation solutions that can contribute to international efforts to combat global warming.

In particular the two sides agreed to:

- **Ensure reciprocal access to respective research and innovation funding programmes** through the promotion of participation rules based on equal treatment, the regular exchange of data on actual participation and the provision of timely and clear information to participants.
- Set up a **new co-funding mechanism** based on Horizon 2020 on the EU side and relevant research and innovation funding programmes on the Chinese side to support joint research and innovation projects in strategic areas of common interest.
- Stimulate collaboration on frontier research through the signature at the margin of the 17<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit of an **implementing arrangement between the European Research Council and the Natural Science Foundation of China** that will promote excellence-based and bottom-up cooperation between high calibre Chinese and EU scientists.
- Reinforce the long standing cooperation between the European Commission Joint Research Centre and the Chinese Academy of Sciences with the signature of a **new collaborative research arrangement on remote sensing**.
- Continue the bold implementation of the **flagship initiative on Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology** by supporting their respective researchers and innovators participating in joint projects in the areas of plant breeding, food safety, animal health, soil and water resources management, and urban agriculture.
- Jointly promote research and innovation cooperation on **Sustainable Urbanisation** as one of the pillars of the EU-China Urbanisation Partnership launched in 2012. To this end the two sides will support the participation of their researchers and innovators in a package of actions to promote innovative nature-based solutions for climate and water resilience in cities, nature-based solutions for inclusive urban regeneration, city planning and development, and a platform of sustainable urbanisation stakeholders.
- Further discuss other thematic areas of common interest (energy, ICT, aviation, health, etc.) and implementation mechanisms at the next meeting of the joint steering committee under the EU-China S&T Cooperation Agreement which is due to take place in the fall in Beijing.

### **New initiatives and thematic cooperation**

#### ***New Initiatives***

1. **ERC/NSFC** - Both sides recognise that enhancing the mobility of researchers is of mutual interest. They welcome the Implementing Arrangement between the European Commission and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), through which Chinese researchers can be hosted by European Research Council (ERC) grantees in Europe, as an important step forward. Both sides are expected to benefit since this new initiative will expand the width of their cooperation in science and technology on the basis of the supported interactions between excellent researchers who have already been selected on a competitive basis.

2. **Joint Research Centre** - After a longstanding and successful cooperation, both sides welcome the signature, during the EU-China Summit, of a collaborative research arrangement between the EC Joint Research Centre and the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute for Remote Sensing and Digital Earth. Under this arrangement, the cooperation will be reinforced and extended to promising areas where scientific knowledge needs to inform policies, such as global change, air quality, human settlement analysis, land and soil degradation, land cover mapping, and digital earth. This cooperation will help to developing joint solutions to global challenges such as disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate action. Both sides also recognise the EC Joint Research Centre contribution to the Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology Flagship initiative, in particular on Land and Soil research, and potential for cooperation in new areas, supporting the Innovation Cooperation Dialogue.

### *Thematic Cooperation*

3. **Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology (FAB)** – Being the two biggest food producers in the world, China and the EU have a common goal to join forces for addressing the challenges of global food security and developing close cooperation in research and innovation to ensure long-term sustainability of agricultural production systems. The signing of the Letter of Intent on Research and Innovation Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology (FAB) in November 2013 between the European Commission and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences paved the way for a more inclusive and strategic partnership in this field. In the H2020 Work Programme for 2014/2015 (the first phase of the FAB Flagship initiative), seven topics were flagged for EU-China cooperation. As a result, a first wave of seven joint projects has started or will shortly kick-off. As a second phase of the FAB Flagship initiative five topic areas were identified and developed into topic areas together for the first time ever.
4. **Sustainable Urbanisation** – Following the joint commitments undertaken with the launch of the EU-China Urbanisation Partnership in 2012, as well as at the 1<sup>st</sup> ICD in November 2013 and the Joint Committee meeting of June 2014, and recognising the key role of research and innovation in finding and implementing solutions for urban areas, including systemic approaches that are inspired and supported by nature, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to translate such political commitments into concrete actions. In particular, they agreed to support the participation of their researchers and innovators in a package of actions to promote innovative nature-based solutions for climate and water resilience in cities, nature-based solutions for inclusive urban regeneration, city planning and development, and a platform of sustainable urbanisation stakeholders.
5. **Aviation** - Both sides highly evaluated the fruits and acknowledged the value of the long standing EU-China cooperation in aviation research and innovation which started more than ten years ago. The rapidly evolving high-tech sector of aviation is of mutual interest for Europe and China and there are already numerous bilateral industry to industry cooperation. Both sides welcome the implementation in 2015 of the second coordinated call for proposals between the European Commission, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, and the Ministry of Industry and information Technologies (MIIT) of China. Both sides agreed on the need for follow-up joint activities for the time period 2016-2019 to capitalize on the longstanding cooperation so far, taking into account the findings of the ongoing GRAIN2 joint projects on green technology in aviation and the outcome of the ongoing coordinated call.

6. **Energy (non-nuclear)** - Both sides recognise the good cooperation in the field of energy under the FP7 and the funding program on China-EU cooperation by the SME Development Fund of China, notably as far as CO<sub>2</sub> as well as Carbon Capture and Storage technologies are concerned. Successful projects were also addressing Concentrated Solar Power. Both sides endeavour to reinforce policy cooperation by regularly exchanging information on respective policies and priorities in the field of energy and consultation of stakeholders with a view to identify common priorities and joint actions at future Joint Steering Committee meetings.
7. **Energy (nuclear)** - The two sides recognised their excellent cooperation on both fusion and fission research under the R&D-PUNE Agreement, as outlined in the recent signature of the nuclear research cooperation 'Three-Year Report 2011-2014', and endeavoured to further strengthen this cooperation in the future.
8. **Climate** - In line with the Joint Statement on Climate action agreed at the 17th EU-China Summit, the two sides reiterate their resolution to enhance their collaboration on climate-related scientific research and cooperation on technology innovation, including the development and deployment of low-carbon technologies, and adaptation solutions."
9. **GEO** - The two sides confirmed joint support to the new 10-year Strategy endorsed at the Third Group on Earth Observation (GEO) Ministerial conference in 2014 to develop the work of GEO through 2025, also using dedicated sectoral dialogues, such as the EU-ESA-China Dialogue on Space Technology Cooperation.
10. **Research Infrastructures** - Recognizing the ongoing collaborative work between China and Europe in the Research Infrastructures domain, both sides will continue to explore potential scientific links between research infrastructures and to promote access between key science and technology institutions. Europe is committed to promote excellence in public research through Research Infrastructures and to encourage knowledge transfer between academia, industry and society.
11. **Health** - Both sides recognise the importance of cooperation on health research and innovation. Mutually beneficial cooperation is already taking place in the areas of rare diseases (within the International Rare Diseases Research Consortium) and on chronic diseases (in the frame of the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases). Cooperation on infectious diseases might be strengthened in prevention and treatment of infectious diseases and research on global TB vaccine. The area of traumatic brain injuries, already established during FP7 with some key projects, might be reinforced with the joint participation in the International Initiative for Traumatic Brain Injury Research.
12. **Researchers' mobility** - Both sides recognize that two-way mobility of researchers and academic staff is an important vehicle and catalyst for deepening EU-China relations in research and innovation and acknowledge the valuable role played by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) to promote researchers' training and career development through mobility.