

The Dialogue

Both sides intend to establish a high level policy dialogue ("The Dialogue") on circular economy:

1. The Dialogue should be led by high-level officials of both sides, normally being the Member of the European Commission responsible for Environment and the leadership of the NDRC, or officials authorized by them respectively. Other relevant stakeholders may take part in the Dialogue. Both sides may decide to set up ad hoc working groups to facilitate the implementation of the cooperation. Each side should establish contact points responsible for contacts with the other side for the purposes of the cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding.
2. The aim is to hold yearly meetings. The precise agenda for each meeting should be accepted beforehand by both sides.
3. Each side decides the level and composition of its delegation in the meetings after consultation.
4. The venue of the meetings should alternate between the European Union and China.

Forms of cooperation

Cooperation under the guidance of the Dialogue may include, but is not limited to the following:

1. bilateral and multilateral meetings and other activities, with broad participation of relevant stakeholders;
2. information exchange on research on major issues regarding circular economy where results of research are shared by both sides;
3. capacity building, training programs, workshops and personnel exchange activities.

Modification, financial arrangements and non-binding character

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified with the mutual written consent of both sides.

Both sides bear their own expenses arising from the implementation of the Dialogue and other activities carried out under this Memorandum of Understanding.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY BETWEEN THE
EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM
COMMISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

The European Commission and the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China (NDRC) hereinafter referred to as "both sides":

Noting the importance of circular economy as a tool to realise sustainable economic growth, resource efficiency and sustainable development at global level;

Acknowledging the fact that the EU and China face common challenges in developing more resource efficient policies;

Noting with appreciation the independent scientific assessments provided by the International Resource Panel on the sustainable use of natural resources;

Wishing to strengthen cooperation on circular economy by setting up a high level policy dialogue on circular economy (hereinafter referred to as "the Dialogue") with the aim to promote understanding and cooperation on circular economy issues;

Intending that the high level policy dialogue on circular economy should contribute to the implementation of the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Have reached the following understanding through friendly consultations:

Fields of cooperation

Cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. dialogue on the design, planning, and implementation of strategies, legislation, policies, and research in areas of mutual interest, including major new initiatives;
2. strategic exchanges on management systems and policy tools such as eco-design, eco-labelling, extended producer responsibility and green supply chains;
3. strategic exchanges on best practices of circular economy in key fields such as industrial parks, chemicals, plastics and waste;
4. exchanges on investments in and financing of circular economy.

This Memorandum of Understanding does not create any legal or financial obligations for either side under domestic or international law.

Validity

Cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding will be for five years starting on the date of signature. After the initial period of five years, the Dialogue will continue unless either side communicates its wish to terminate it through written notification.

Written in English and Chinese with both texts having equal validity.

Signed at Beijing on 16 July, 2018.

Representative of
the European Commission

Representative of
the National Development
and Reform Commission of the
People's Republic of China

