



TERMS OF REFERENCE

FOR ESTABLISHING A DIALOGUE ON HEALTH BETWEEN THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND CONSUMERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

1 PRINCIPLES

Health is a precondition for sustainable development and economic growth. Closer cooperation between the European Union and the People's Republic of China towards the improvement of the level of public health safety and protection of human health is essential in order to ensure harmonious and sustainable development of our economies.

The cooperation is underpinned by common values including respect for health, commitment to international health treaties, fostering sustainable development, and integrating health issues into all sectoral policies.

The Directorate General for Health and Consumers of the European Commission and the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter the two "sides") have therefore decided to establish a dialogue on health, according to the following principles:

- The dialogue should enhance co-operation and the exchange of information on common concerns of health policies.
- The dialogue should address issues of common interest to both sides. This includes horizontal issues as well as sector-specific matters. It should take account of existing co-operation within bilateral and multilateral frameworks in health.
- The dialogue will be concerned with health relations between two sides; it will not deal with matters more appropriate to bilateral relations between Member States and the People's Republic of China or dialogues in other areas.

2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this dialogue are:

- To promote common approaches to health policy.
- To enhance the role of civil society in the process of health policy development and implementation.
- To collaborate in the analysis of common health concerns, to share information, to raise public awareness of public health issues.
- To facilitate co-operation within multilateral health forums and the implementation of international health agreements.
- To promote the development and implementation of programmes and projects of mutual interest in the field of health.

3 WORKING GROUP AND WORKING METHODS

The two sides intend to establish a Working Group. The responsibility of the working group would be to discuss priority areas of cooperation and implementation. A list of the possible priority areas is contained in the *Annex*. The working group may establish as need be a work-plan in agreement with both sides.

The Working Group should be headed by two co-chairpersons one nominated by each side. The two sides intend to hold the meetings of the Working Group at least once a year. Meetings should be held alternately in China and the EU. The foreseen working languages are Chinese and English.

The two sides envisage to set up a single contact point on each side for the fast exchange of information.

Representatives of interested bodies may be invited to attend the meetings, as appropriate.

4 COSTS

Each side will cover its own costs, including traveling and accommodation costs.

5 LEGAL STATUS

These Terms of Reference are not intended to create legal obligations and the sides do not intend them to constitute an agreement under international law.

Done in on.....in two originals, in the English and Chinese languages, both texts being equally authentic.

**For the Directorate General for Health and Consumers
of the European Commission**

**For the Ministry of Health of
The People's Republic of China**

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Chen Xiaohong

**Director General Directorate General for Health and
Consumers of the European Commission**

Vice Minister of Health

Androulla Vassiliou

Chen Zhu

EU Commissioner for Health

Minister of Health

Annex

**The Dialogue on Health between
the Directorate General for Health and Consumers of the European Commission
and
the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China**

Priority Areas

The two sides endeavour to develop cooperation in the area of health raising the level of public health safety and protection of human health by strengthening activities in the fields of:

- major communicable diseases and other health threats
- non communicable diseases
- preventive medicine
- food safety
- international health (health diplomacy and implementation of international health agreements)