

**EU-CHINA REGIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE
VII HIGH-LEVEL MEETING
GUANGZHOU, 21 DECEMBER 2012**

JOINT STATEMENT OF CONCLUSIONS

Director-General Mr Fan Hengshan, of the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China, and Director-General Mr Walter Deffaa, of the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission met in Guangzhou on 21 December 2012 for the Seventh EU-China regional policy dialogue high-level meeting.

Both sides reviewed the actions which had taken place within the context of the regional policy dialogue since the last High Level meeting. They noted that, although policies for regional socio-economic development in China and the European Union were implemented in different circumstances, there was a great deal that each could learn from the other.

This conclusion had been amply borne out by the regular training courses organised in the European Union for Chinese officials (CETREGIO project) which allowed since 2010 to nearly 100 Chinese decision makers from national and all 31 provincial level regions to exchange experiences and best practices in more than 40 regions of 12 EU member states.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the success of CETREGIO in 2012. The two sessions organised on the topics of multi-level governance and sustainable regional and urban development have brought benefits to both sides, leading to increased mutual understanding and to the consideration of new ways in which their respective policies for regional economic development might evolve.

The two sides stressed the important contribution and added value that the EU-China regional policy dialogue can make to the EU-China Urbanisation Partnership launched on 3 May in Brussels, by promoting exchange of experiences as well as encouraging direct contacts and increasing networking opportunities for the respective local authorities on issues such as urban-rural linkages and sustainable urban development.

Director-General Walter Deffaa and Director-General Fan Hengshan discussed next steps in regional policy cooperation. Both sides agreed on a number of issues on which to share experience which would form the basis of the work programme for 2013 and the agenda of the next High Level Meeting, in particular:

- (i) Integrated urban-rural territorial development
- (ii) Regional policy legislative and governance instruments and practices, definition of regions and definition of eligibility for regional support
- (iii) Cooperation between EU and Chinese regions on regional innovation and economic development
- (iv) Financing mechanisms, public private partnerships and innovative infrastructure financing

Accordingly, both sides agreed that three information sessions in Europe and two workshops in China will be organised in 2013 on the above mentioned topics in the framework of the CETREGIO project funded by EU. NDRC will provide active support and collaboration for the organisation of the workshops in China.

In order to achieve the objectives listed above, the two sides will ensure that appropriate working arrangements are put in place for the pursuit of the dialogue including regular video-conferences at Director level and the design of a joint multi-annual roadmap.

Both sides agreed to organise the next high-level seminar on regional policy cooperation in Europe in 2013. The high-level seminar will be preceded by a visit to EU regions where regional development policies have been central to socio-economic progress. The venue of the high-level meeting will be decided before end of March 2013.



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