

**VIII EU-CHINA HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE  
ON REGIONAL POLICY COOPERATION  
BEIJING, 21 NOVEMBER 2013**

**JOINT STATEMENT**

**Commissioner Mr Johannes Hahn, member of the European Commission responsible for regional policy and Vice Chairman Mr Du Ying, of the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China, met in Beijing on 21 November 2013 for the Eighth EU-China high-level dialogue on regional policy cooperation.**

Both sides reviewed the actions which had taken place within the context of the regional policy dialogue since the last high level dialogue.

They expressed satisfaction with the success of the training courses and networking activities organised in the framework of the CETREGIO project in 2013. The sessions organised on the topics of integrated urban-rural territorial development; sustainable urban development; and macro-regional strategies and regional innovation instruments and practices have brought many benefits to both sides, in terms of exchanging knowledge, experience and good practices.

They also discussed possibilities for focusing more on sustainable urbanization within the framework of the EU-China Dialogue on Regional Policy Cooperation. They welcomed the fact that sustainable urban development featured high on the agenda of the EU-China Summit held the same day in Beijing.

Commissioner Mr Johannes Hahn and Vice Chairman Mr Du Ying discussed the next steps in regional and urban policy cooperation.

The two sides welcomed the fact that cooperation under the regional policy dialogue has increasingly taken the form of direct contacts between regional and urban authorities in the European Union and in China, respectively, and they agreed to strengthen this decentralized cooperation as well as to encourage in future a greater involvement on the part of private sector in the dialogue.

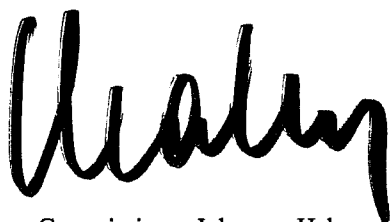
They agreed on key themes on which to share experience and which would form the basis of the work programme for 2014 and the agenda of the next high level dialogue, in particular:

- (i) Cooperation between EU and China to promote sustainable urban development and enable cities to work together to develop pragmatic solutions to major urban challenges (such as planning and implementation of investment programmes which embody a low-carbon, or carbon neutral approach, mobility, energy efficiency), reflecting the priority attached to the issue in China and among EU institutions including the European Parliament.
- (ii) Cooperation between EU and Chinese regions to improve innovation capacity and to promote industrial clusters at regional level.

Accordingly, it was agreed that two cooperation inter-changes involving regional and urban authorities on both sides, and two workshops in China, will be organised in 2014 on the priority themes identified above in the framework of the continuation of the CETREGIO project. It was also agreed to take the Guangzhou Development Zone as a pilot area of EU-China regional policy cooperation.

In order to achieve the objectives indicated above, the two sides agreed to ensure that appropriate working arrangements are put in place for the pursuit of the dialogue, notably the design of a joint multi-annual roadmap. They both agreed to initiate a common reflection in order to guarantee the financial sustainability of the cooperation over the longer-term.

Both sides agreed to organise a high-level seminar in Chengdu in September 2014 and the next high-level dialogue on regional policy cooperation in Brussels on the occasion of the next EU-China Summit.



Commissioner Johannes Hahn  
Member of the European  
Commission  
responsible for regional policy



Mr. Du Ying  
Vice Chairman of  
the National Development  
and Reform Commission