



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Brussels, 31.5.2024  
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## COMMISSION DECISION

of 31.5.2024

**on the signature of a document titled "Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Cooperation on Emissions Trading between the European Commission and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China"**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 17(1) of the Treaty on European Union lists the powers of the Commission and provides in particular that the Commission is to ensure the Union's external representation, with the exception of the common foreign and security policy and other cases provided for in the Treaties.
- (2) The European Commission and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China fully acknowledge the urgency of addressing climate change and the importance of giving full effect to the Paris Agreement. Both sides consider Emissions Trading Systems to be cost-effective policy tools with a significant potential to contribute to a climate-neutral economy and the necessary innovation and deployment of low carbon technologies.
- (3) At the occasion of the Summit between the European Union and the People's Republic of China in July 2018, the European Commission and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China signed a document titled "Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, to enhance cooperation on emissions trading between the European Commission and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China".<sup>1</sup>
- (4) During a visit of the Executive Vice President of the European Commission in July 2023, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment requested updating the document titled "Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, to enhance cooperation on emissions trading between the European Commission and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China" to take into account recent developments of the emissions trading systems in the European Union and the People's Republic of China since July 2018.
- (5) Signature of the document titled "Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Cooperation on Emissions Trading between the European Commission and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China" should happen as soon as possible and preferably in the context of the High-Level Environment and Climate Dialogue between the People's Republic of China and the European Union in Brussels.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://climate.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-07/20180713\\_mou\\_en.pdf](https://climate.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-07/20180713_mou_en.pdf)

- (6) The document titled “Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Cooperation on Emissions Trading between the European Commission and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China” does not, nor is it intended to, create any legal obligations on either side under domestic or international law nor financial implications on either side.
- (7) Given the interest of the European Union in enhancing cooperation on emission trading with the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People’s Republic of China it is appropriate to sign the document titled “Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Cooperation on Emissions Trading between the European Commission and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China”.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

The document titled “Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Cooperation on Emissions Trading between the European Commission and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China”, as attached to this Decision, is approved.

*Article 2*

The Member of the Commission responsible for Climate Change or the person designated by him is authorised to sign the Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Cooperation on Emissions Trading between the European Commission and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People’s Republic of China.

Done at Brussels, 31.5.2024

*For the Commission*  
*Wopke HOEKSTRA*  
*Member of the Commission*