

Meeting Minutes of the 3rd Chairs' Meeting of EU-China Connectivity Platform

The 3rd Chairs' Meeting of EU-China Connectivity Platform took place on 15 July in Beijing, China. The Chinese delegation was led by the co-chair of the Chinese side Mr He Lifeng, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and comprised of officials from NDRC, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Transport, General Administration of Customs of China, National Railway Administration, Civil Aviation Administration of China, China Railway Corporation and China Development Bank (CDB). The EU side was led by the co-chair of the EU side Mrs Violeta Bulc, European Commissioner for Mobility and Transport, and comprised of officials from different services of the European Commission and the European External Action Service. Commissioner Bulc expressed her gratitude to Mr He Lifeng for organising this meeting. The meeting was hosted by Mr Hu Zucui, Vice-Chairman of the NDRC and Mrs Maja Bakran, Deputy Director General of the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE).

The meeting was held in a very constructive spirit and friendly atmosphere. Chairs from both sides listened to the reports from the Working Group and the Expert Group on the latest progress of the platform and provided guidance for the next steps. The minutes of the meeting read as follows:

1. Chairs from both sides pointed out that the connectivity of infrastructure is a priority and important foundation for EU-China cooperation and development. The Connectivity Platform has played a unique and positive role in promoting EU-China infrastructure connectivity, enhancing EU-China experience exchanges and cooperation, and contributing to a friendly relationship between the two sides. The Connectivity Platform will continue to focus on policy exchanges, investment and financing cooperation, including on pilot projects, and green and smart transport development.
2. Chairs from both sides highly appreciated the work carried out since the second Chairs' meeting in June 2017. Both sides also assessed the EU-China Connectivity Platform Short-Term Action Plan and decided to annex the Action Plan to the meeting minutes. The chairs of both sides asked the Working Group to implement the Action Plan, enrich exchanges and cooperation in the areas of strategic planning, policy, investment and financing, and promote substantial progress in the cooperation on pilot projects.
3. Chairs from both sides welcomed the results of the third Expert Group Meeting on Investment and Financing Cooperation, which took place on 13 July 2018, especially the exchanges on the pilot projects, and appreciated, in this context, the cooperation between CDB, the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Both sides agreed to hold the fourth meeting of the Expert Group in Europe by the end of November 2018. Both chairs requested to establish a rolling implementation mechanism and evaluate the list of jointly identified pilot projects and priority actions, in accordance with their respective laws and regulations, focussing on the key multimodal hubs and missing links on the Trans-European Transport Network and the EU-China cargo train routes.

4. Both sides will strengthen the synergies between China's Belt and Road Initiative and the EU's Trans-European Transport Network policy. Both sides will discuss synergies between the respective strategic land and sea corridor planning, covering Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, West Asia and other areas, and also welcome the active involvement of relevant countries.
5. Both sides will cooperate on corridor infrastructure development in order to define the most appropriate railway corridors and to improve transport capacity and efficiency, as well as to ensure the proper functioning of key multimodal hubs along the EU-China corridors.
6. Both sides will cooperate to improve infrastructure and the quality of relevant services; fully use the China-European Standardization Platform; deepen the discussion on infrastructure standardization cooperation; continue to carry out cooperation in technical standards; promote multimodal transport synergies; continuously improve the level of transportation facilitation; and promote efficient mobility of people and goods between China and the EU.
7. Both sides will cooperate to develop green and smart transport infrastructure; promote discussions on green transport including with relevant international organizations and actively expand the depth and breadth of cooperation, and jointly promote the development of green and low-carbon transport.
8. In accordance with the minutes of the first and second Chairs' meetings, market-based principles and international standards, both sides agree to promote openness, transparency and a level playing field in the area of infrastructure connectivity and agreed to work together to promote these principles in projects under the EU-China Connectivity Platform.

9. Both sides agree to hold the fourth Chairs' meeting in 2019. The specific date will be further discussed.

Signed in Beijing on 15 July, 2018, in Chinese and English versions, both texts being equally authentic.

Chair of the Chinese side

He Lifeng

Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China

Chair of the EU side

Violeta Bulc

EU Commissioner for Mobility and Transport





Annexes:

1. List of Meeting Participants
2. EU-China Connectivity Platform Short-Term Action Plan

Annex I

List of Participants

Chinese Delegation:

He Lifeng	Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Chairman of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)
Hu Zucai	Vice Chairman of NDRC
Su Wei	Deputy Secretary General, and Director General of the Department of International Cooperation, NDRC
Luo Guosan	Director General of the Department of Basic Industries, NDRC
Wang Jianjun	Director General of the Department of Foreign Capital and Overseas Investment, NDRC
Zhang Ming	Deputy Director General of the Department of Western Region Development, NDRC
Ma Qiang	Deputy Director General of the Department of Basic Industries, NDRC
Ma Li	Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation, NDRC
Qi Mei	Deputy Director General of the Department of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Zhang Xiaojie	Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Transport
Liu Jian	Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation, General Administration of Customs of China
Yu Chunxiao	Deputy Administrator, National Railway Administration
Dong Faxin	Deputy Director of the Department of Development Planning, Civil Aviation Administration of China
Cui Yunhong	Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation, China Railway
Peng Dongmei	Deputy Director General of Global Cooperation Department-Eurasia, China Development Bank

Zhao Kun First Secretary, Mission of the People's Republic of China to
the European Union

EU Delegation:

Violeta Bulc European Commissioner for Mobility and Transport
Minister & Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union
to China

Chris Wood

Matej Zakonjšek Head of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Mobility and Transport

Maja Bakran Deputy Director-General for Mobility and Transport

Alessandro
Carano Expert of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Mobility and Transport

Stefano Paci Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Mobility and
Transport

Alain Baron Officer of Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport

Ignacio Asenjo Second Secretary, Delegation of the European Union to China

EU-China Connectivity Platform Short-Term Action Plan

Vision of cooperation

1. In September 2015, the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China and the European Commission signed the “Memorandum of understanding on establishing a Connectivity Platform between the EU and China”, clarifying that the platform’s objective is to strengthen information exchange, promote seamless transport connections and transport facilitation, synergize related policies and projects, create cooperation opportunities for Chinese and European enterprises, and an open, and transparent environment and a level playing field for investment in transport and other fields.
2. Jointly discuss and draft the “EU-China Connectivity Platform Annual Action Plan” (including an implementation timetable), which will help improve the cooperation on the EU-China Connectivity Platform, enhance the communication and cooperation between both sides in the field of transport infrastructure, enrich the cooperation’s content, and achieve new breakthroughs in the fields of strategy, planning, policy and investment and financing through new measures for pilot project cooperation.

Specific actions

- Deepen strategic planning synergies
3. Strengthen the synergies between China's Belt and Road Initiative and the EU's Trans-European Transport Network's policy. Further promote EU-China connectivity strategic cooperation; support the implementation of infrastructure corridor development in the relevant countries and regions along the route.
-
- Cooperation in corridor infrastructure development.
4. Jointly conduct an "EU-China Railway Corridor Study" to define the most appropriate railway corridors, identify bottlenecks, identify and prioritize the missing links to improve the capacity and efficiency of rail corridors.
 5. Identify and plan the key multimodal hubs along the EU-China corridors, and offer policy guidance so as to ensure their proper functioning.
-
- Cooperation to improve the quality of infrastructure and related services
6. Deepen the discussion on the cooperation in infrastructure standardization. Continue to carry out cooperation in technical standards systems for railways, highways, water transport, and civil aviation.
 7. Promote multimodal transport connections, support the development of compatible and unified transport rules, promote the construction of

transnational information platforms, and the use of standardized electronic transport documents.

8. Promote exchanges on developments in the transport infrastructure sector between China and EU. Use the EU- China Connectivity Platform to study the new trends in the transport infrastructure sector and to conceive innovative models for transport infrastructure development.

- Develop green transport infrastructure

9. Exchange experiences on green and low-carbon transport infrastructure. Facilitate training and exchanges between government departments and enterprises from both sides on development pathways for green and low-carbon transport infrastructure.

Working mechanism

10. Strengthen the regular exchanges and communication, organize specific technical workshops involving relevant stakeholders. Strengthen the functions of the Working Group, including the supervision of the implementation of the Work Plan, as well as the supervision of the “EU-China Railway Corridor Study”.

11. In order to smoothly carry out project cooperation, establish a rolling implementation mechanism and jointly identify the list of pilot projects and priority actions, focusing on the key multimodal hubs and missing

links on the Trans-European Network for Transport and the EU-China cargo train routes.