EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation
Foreword

Relations between the EU and China have developed fast since diplomatic ties were established in 1975. In particular, the creation of the EU-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2003 has deepened and broadened cooperation in a wide range of areas, and the EU and China have become highly interdependent as a result.

The world of today is experiencing profound and complex changes. As important actors in a multipolar world, the EU and China share responsibility for promoting peace, prosperity and sustainable development for the benefit of all. They agree to continue to consolidate and develop their strategic partnership to the benefit of both sides, based on the principles of equality, respect and trust. The EU reaffirms its respect for China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. China reaffirms its support to EU integration.

The EU and China have both put forward strategic development plans - China's two centenary goals and the 12th Five Year Plan, the EU 2020 Strategy - which present potential for synergies to enhance cooperation for win-win results. The two sides are committed to promoting the EU-China Comprehensive strategic Partnership in the next decade.

In that perspective, both sides jointly adopted the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation. The two sides will fully implement the Strategic Agenda for Cooperation through their annual Summit, which provides strategic guidance to their relationship; through the three pillars directly underpinning the Summit (the annual High Level Strategic Dialogue, the annual High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue, and the bi-annual People-to-People Dialogue); through their regular meetings of counterparts and through their broad range of sectoral dialogues.

These objectives will be reviewed annually and reported to the Summit which will, when appropriate, consider further complementary initiatives.
I. PEACE AND SECURITY

The world's trends toward multipolarity and economic globalisation are deepening. The importance of cultural diversity is growing, and an information society is fast emerging. Countries are increasingly interdependent, with their interests more closely intertwined than ever before. On the other hand, the world is still far from being peaceful. The global financial crisis has had a far-reaching impact. Imbalance in global development has widened. International and local conflicts keep breaking out. Conventional and non-conventional security issues are interwoven. However, peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit have become the trend of the times. Promoting multilateralism remains crucial to ensure effective, coordinated and coherent responses to pressing global challenges. As important actors in a multipolar world, the EU and China commit to enhancing dialogue and coordination at bilateral, regional and global levels, to meet regional and global challenges together, and work to make the international order and system more just and equitable.

This will be achieved by the following key initiatives:

1. Consult fully and effectively on major bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern. Enhance coordination on strategic, political and security issues within the EU-China High Level Strategic Dialogue. Use this platform to increase mutual understanding, deepen mutual trust, build common ground, and provide strategic support for promoting bilateral relations and safeguarding international peace and development.

2. Strengthen dialogue and communication on international and regional issues with major implications at the global level. Enhance consultations on Africa, Central Asia, Latin America and the respective neighbourhoods of the EU and China.

3. Reinforce cooperation in all relevant trans-regional and regional fora, in particular ASEM and the ARF, and contribute to sustainable development and the building of an equal, open, transparent and inclusive regional architecture in Asia. Both sides agree that the EU’s participation in the East Asia Summit, based on consensus, would be useful.

4. Reinforce cooperation in multilateral fora, including coordination before major meetings, to establish a rules-based, more efficient, transparent, just and equitable system of global governance, emphasise multilateralism and the central role of the UN in international affairs and value the role of multilateral organisations and platforms such as the G20. The EU looks forward to China hosting a forthcoming G20 summit.

5. Strengthen coordination and cooperation, working for just, reasonable, and effective rules in key fields, such as international trade and investment, finance, environment and climate change, the Internet and a new generation of wireless communication technology.
6. Reinforce cooperation on promoting nuclear security, strengthening the international non-proliferation regime and related export control arrangements, and combatting the smuggling of nuclear material.

7. Support and promote the establishment of a peaceful, secure, resilient and open cyber space, promoting mutual trust and cooperation through such platforms as the EU-China Cyber Taskforce.

8. Deepen exchanges on human rights at the bilateral and international level on the basis of equality and mutual respect. Strengthen the Human Rights Dialogue with constructive discussions on jointly agreed key priority areas.

9. Strengthen EU-China cooperation under the framework of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Collaborate on projects combating transnational crime, illegal migration, and cyber-crime, and hold special consultations on issues of anti-terrorism at an appropriate time. The EU and China should keep each other informed on criminal activities, organised crime, illicit trade in small arms, abduction, human smuggling, illegal migration, trafficking in human beings, money-laundering, counterfeiting and drugs, as well as economic and financial cases, and take joint actions. Cooperation on police training should be strengthened.

10. Hold regular dialogues on defense and security policy, increase training exchanges, and gradually raise the level of EU-China dialogue and cooperation on defense and security, advancing towards more practical cooperation.

11. Continue cooperation on maritime security, including on counter-piracy, and conduct joint counter-piracy exercises.

12. Develop joint activities to promote maritime safety and security; share expertise in relation to relevant international law; develop exchanges on the Arctic, including joint research projects.

13. Intensify co-operation with a view to promoting and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid solely based on the needs of people affected by disaster or crisis, and in accordance with humanitarian principles.
II. PROSPERITY

The EU and China enjoy one of the world's biggest and most dynamic trading relationships. Their trade and investment exchanges have become a major engine driving their respective economic development and innovation. Both sides share responsibility for ensuring that their economies remain key drivers for global economic growth and providing prosperity for all. They are committed to building a world economy where all countries enjoy development and innovation, interconnected growth, interests converging, and firmly safeguarding and developing an open world economy. In that perspective, they are determined to enhance further their trade and investment relationship towards 2020 in a spirit of mutual benefit, by promoting open, transparent markets and a level-playing field. Particular importance will be paid to improving opportunities for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

Key initiatives:

I. Trade and investment

1. Reaffirm the importance of the annual High-Level Economic and Trade Dialogue as an essential forum for planning and guiding the development of EU-China economic and trade relations as well as taking strategic decisions on important trade, investment and economic issues.

2. Negotiate and conclude a comprehensive EU-China Investment Agreement that covers issues of interest to either side, including investment protection and market access. The EU-China Investment Agreement will provide for progressive liberalisation of investment and the elimination of restrictions for investors to each other's market. It will provide a simpler and more secure legal framework to investors of both sides by securing predictable long-term access to EU and Chinese markets respectively and providing for strong protection to investors and their investments. It should replace the existing bilateral investment treaties between China and EU Member States with one single comprehensive agreement covering all EU Member States.

3. Negotiating and concluding such a comprehensive EU-China Investment Agreement will convey both sides' joint commitment towards stronger cooperation as well as their willingness to envisage broader ambitions including, once the conditions are right, towards a deep and comprehensive FTA, as a longer term perspective.

4. Strive to create the conditions for continued high and sound growth in EU-China trade.

5. Increase exchanges on public procurement policies in order to accelerate and complete
the process leading to China's accession to the WTO Government Procurement Agreement.

6. Step-up coordination at the multilateral level, notably on global governance issues dealt with by the G20 and WTO, pushing forward the Doha round of negotiations. The EU and China will strive to get WTO members to reach agreement on trade facilitation and some agriculture and development-related subjects at the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference and, on this basis, lay out a roadmap for further negotiation. In this context, they will strive to reach an agreement on the review of the ITA. Both parties are dedicated to the full conclusion of the Doha round of negotiations.

7. Make full use of the existing bilateral mechanisms to strengthen communication, handle major bilateral trade frictions through dialogue and consultation as a preferred option, and, if needed, through negotiations, with an objective of finding mutually beneficial solutions.

8. Both sides recognise that it is critical to follow WTO rules when undertaking trade remedy investigations or imposing trade remedy measures, to prevent their abuse. Commit to administer anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations in a fair, objective and transparent manner.


10. The EU takes note of China's intention to explore options for closer cooperation with the EBRD, in order to support investment in European countries.

11. Confirm the leadership and coordination role of the EU-China Joint Customs Cooperation Committee (JCCC) in strengthening EU-China Customs cooperation; sign a new Strategic Framework for EU-China Customs Cooperation for 2014-2017, with special focus on border enforcement of IPR, supply chain security, anti-fraud and trade facilitation and external trade statistics.

12. Reinforce the Intellectual Property Dialogue mechanism so as to strengthen cooperation for combating counterfeiting and piracy as well as make full use of the new technical cooperation programme in that regard.

13. Confirm their commitment towards international standardisation and notification of any standards-restricting market access. Both sides will commit to enhance the use of the existing Europe-China Standardisation Information Platform, informing about the role of standards regarding market access in Europe and China, and to encourage industry participation in the standardisation process. Both sides will explore how to continue training of EU-China standardisation experts within the EU-CTP framework.
14. Ensure the stability of financial markets, also through the recently established Chinese Yuan/Euro Bilateral Currency Swap Arrangement between the People’s Bank of China and the European Central Bank, which is to serve as a backstop liquidity facility reassuring euro area banks of the continuous provision of Chinese yuan, increase the use of RMB in cross-border trade and investment, promote EU-China trade and investment facilitation and maintain financial stability.

15. Explore innovative modes of financial cooperation to improve access to finance for enterprises, in particular SMEs, and make full use of the advantage of financial institutions in providing diverse financial services.

16. Exchange best practices in the area of e-commerce, in particular with regard to its regulatory aspects from different angles.

17. Strive to conclude their negotiations for a comprehensive agreement on Geographical Indications (GI), strengthen cooperation in the field of GI protection and supervision and combating counterfeiting in GI protected products, while jointly promoting coordinated development between GI products protection on the one hand and economy and trade on the other.

18. Continue and strengthen cooperation in the consumer non-food product safety area, including the functioning of the RAPEX China system. Intensify cooperation on product risk assessment, risk management and market surveillance to support the simplification of conformity assessment procedures.

19. Commit to reach an agreement on the adoption of the Global Standard on Automatic Exchange of Information being developed by the OECD together with G20 countries in the area of taxation.

II. Industry and information

1. Enhance the EU-China Industrial Dialogue and Consultation Mechanism, strengthen policy exchanges to facilitate industrial products trade, particularly in the fields of automobile industry, industrial energy efficiency, raw materials, ship building and small and medium sized enterprises.

2. Reinforce the EU-China Dialogue on Information Technology, Telecommunication and Informatisation, conduct exchanges and dialogues on related strategies, policies and regulations.
III. Agriculture

1. Make full use of the EU-China Cooperation Plan in Agriculture and Rural Development under the auspices of the annual bilateral Agricultural Dialogue to enhance cooperation in the fields of sustainable agricultural production, organic agriculture, rural development and agricultural research.

2. Design concrete projects in ensuring food security and safety, coordinating urban and rural development, building environmentally-friendly agricultural systems while ensuring quality and safety of agricultural products. With regard to food safety, intensify cooperation with the objective to protect consumer health, recognising the importance of food safety as a key element for consumer health, sound food markets, economic development and social welfare, highlighting the continuous and already fruitful cooperation between the EU and China on food safety, and underlining that risk analysis should form the foundation of any food safety policy, laws and regulations.

3. With the view to enhance win-win research and innovation cooperation in the field of food, agriculture and biotechnology, the EU and China will collaborate closely using their respective research and innovation programmes to develop joint initiatives of common interest, including potential joint calls for proposals, twinning activities, joint labs, researchers' exchanges and seminars.

4. Enhance cooperation on fisheries management and the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

IV. Transport and infrastructure

1. Implement, as early as possible, the Letter of Intent on cooperation in the field of civil aviation between CAAC and DG MOVE signed on 23 August 2013.

2. Strengthen cooperation in developing smart, upgraded and fully interconnected infrastructure systems. Expand cooperation in interoperability of seamless supply chain logistics networks between Asia and Europe, maritime markets and routes, rail services, logistics, safety, and energy efficiency.

3. Actively explore models of infrastructure cooperation, including project bonds, project shareholding, joint contracting and co-financing, and further coordinate the cooperation among China, the EU and its Member States in the above-mentioned fields.
III. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The EU and China face the common task of achieving innovative, inclusive and sustainable development. Addressing climate change, protecting the environment, promoting transparent international energy markets and facilitating resource-efficient, far-reaching, socially inclusive and low-carbon development policies are high on the international action list. Emerging green sectors contribute to sustainable growth of the global economy and are creating new business opportunities for Chinese and European companies. Green growth should therefore become a key area of strategic and practical EU-China cooperation. The EU and China are committed to continue promoting cooperation on the environmental flagship initiatives developed respectively by China and the EU, with a view to maximising the mutual synergies between China's ecological civilization and the European Union's resource efficiency agenda. Both sides agree that innovation has an important contribution to make to achieve sustainable development, and that effective protection of Intellectual Property Rights is crucial to support the effective development and deployment of innovative solutions and emerging industries. In addition, in order to ensure sustainable development, a number of important social challenges need to be addressed, including social security and health care, high and quality employment and demographic ageing. The EU and China have a common responsibility for advancing global development.

Key initiatives:

I. Science, technology and innovation

1. Reinforce cooperation on science, technology and innovation, involving industry, universities and research institutes, so as to tackle common challenges; complement mutual strengths and deliver win-win results in the areas of human resources, skills, technology, research infrastructure, financing of innovation, exploitation of research findings, entrepreneurship and framework conditions for innovation within the framework of the EU-China Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation. Employ the EU-China Steering Committee and the EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue to this end.

2. Establish an EU-China cluster cooperation initiative to strengthen collaboration in fields of strategic interest such as sustainable growth and urbanisation.

3. Joint research and innovation initiatives will be further explored, in particular in the areas of food, agriculture and biotechnology, sustainable urbanisation, aviation, water, health and ICT, by developing joint funding programmes and promoting enhanced mutual participation of Chinese and EU researchers and innovators into respective programmes.
4. Continue the implementation of the Joint Statement on cooperation in new and renewable and energy efficient technologies on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit and with special focus on participation of SMEs where appropriate.

5. Strengthen cooperation in the multilateral framework of the ITER project and build a strategic bilateral partnership on fusion energy research. Strengthen exchanges and cooperation on nuclear safety, nuclear fuel cycle, nuclear emergency response, nuclear waste management and nuclear security.

II. Space and aerospace

1. Enhance information exchange in the fields of earth observation, geo-science, space science and exploration under the framework of the EU-China Space Technology Cooperation Dialogue and Group of Earth Observation, identifying projects promoting green development.

2. Reinforce cooperation in the fields of space science and space application, establish a consultation mechanism and explore a long-term plan to identify cooperation projects and actions of mutual interest.

3. Promote information exchange on Copernicus remote sensing data as well as Galileo and Beidou navigation satellite systems. Discuss cooperation on satellite data exchange and applications. Enhance cooperation for civil purpose between their respective global navigation satellite systems. Continue to deepen exchanges and cooperation in manned space. Support cooperation in space industry and in commercial fields.

III. Energy

1. Reinforce cooperation on energy issues, with a special emphasis on global energy security within the framework of the Energy Dialogue.

2. Implement a roadmap for EU-China energy cooperation, in order to reinforce exchanges and cooperation in fields of energy legislation, policy and standard formulation.

3. Further explore cooperation in low-carbon energy technologies, which will support sustainable economic growth.

4. Bring into play such existing cooperation platforms as the EU-China Clean Energy Centre (EC2), encourage enterprises to take part in EC2 enterprise alliance and cooperate on pilot projects.
5. Address the issue of nuclear energy development in a safe and secure manner through a general EURATOM agreement and closer scientific cooperation.

6. Reinforce cooperation in energy regulation in order to share experience and promote best practices both regionally and internationally, thereby enhancing consistency in energy policy-making in each country as well as the efficiency of the energy market. China as an observer to the Energy Charter Conference by invitation will further develop its relationship with the Energy Charter.

IV. Urbanisation

1. Carry out cooperation and promote advanced technology and managerial experience in sustainable urban development planning, urban infrastructure and management and urban-rural integration, including transparent and equitable consultative procedures with public and business stakeholders.

2. Ensure the success of the EU-China Urbanisation Partnership Forum, the EU-China City Expo and the EU-China Mayors' Forum, improve the governing framework of the EU-China Partnership, support the development of numerous relevant city pairings and steer EU-China urbanisation cooperation by the Joint Steering Committee of the EU-China Urbanisation Partnership. Support the development of EC-Link as a co-operation platform to enhance the impact of the Partnership.

3. Conduct dialogues and share experience on urban planning and design, urban socio-economic issues, good administration, natural and cultural heritage preservation, green and low-carbon development, disaster prevention and control, urban mobility and eco-buildings and construction standards in the building sector.

4. Actively build demonstration cities, support EU-China urban cooperation projects, promote cooperation between cities, and between cities and industrial parks and enterprises, creating a level playing field for all stakeholders involved, and reinforcing cooperation in the fields of finance and innovation to elevate the quality and level of urban development.

V. Climate change and environmental protection

1. In response to the recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, enhance the implementation of effective international climate change measures under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, and contribute to the process of the Durban platform for enhanced action and the implementation of the outcomes of the Doha Conference.
2. Cooperate to support complementary initiatives, with a view to reducing global greenhouse emissions below 2C above pre-industrial level. This will include working together and with other countries through multilateral approaches that include using the expertise and institutions of the Montreal Protocol, to phase down the production and consumption of HFCs, based on the examination of economically viable and technically feasible alternatives, while continuing to include HFCs within the scope of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol provisions for accounting and reporting of emissions.

3. Welcome the world leaders Climate Summit planned by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon in September 2014 and help the global shift towards a low carbon economy.

4. Cooperate on achieving a strategic policy framework of green and low-carbon development for actively addressing global climate change, improving the quality of the environment and facilitating business-to-business cooperation within the green sector.

5. Facilitate the building of China's emission trading market and use of market mechanism in addressing climate change through an EU-China emission trading capacity building project. Enhance practical cooperation in building EU-China low-carbon cities, communities and industrial parks and controlling greenhouse gas emission. Develop low carbon technologies to promote extensive use of renewable energy to reduce consumption of fossil sources of energy and corresponding emissions.

6. Strengthen cooperation on aviation environment protection and sustainable development, and discuss how to handle the impact of aviation on the environment. This should include: exploring the development of a long-term mechanism for the collaboration between Chinese and EU civil aviation industries in ECER; facilitating the research and development of environmentally-friendly technology tackling aviation emissions; improvement of scientific understanding regarding aviation emissions impacts in order to better inform policy decisions; air traffic management innovation to limit and reduce environmental aviation emission; research, development and promotion of sustainable bio-fuels for aviation; design, construction and efficient operation of green airports; methodologies and technology for quantitative analysis of the impacts of various emission reduction measures.

7. Continue dialogue and exchange experience on regulatory matters and environmental standards and research.

8. Express readiness to explore opportunities and work together in the WTO on the basis of APEC's liberalisation of trade in environmental goods and services.

9. Cooperate on tackling air, water and soil pollution, chemical pollution, sustainable waste
management and resource efficiency within consumption and production, as well as environmental pollution emergency action.


11. Strengthen the EU-China Water Platform to promote water policy dialogue, enhance joint scientific research and business cooperation with a view to addressing water challenges such as water quantity (water scarcity, drought, ground water, urban water systems, water and security nexus), water use efficiency (water recycling, industrial water use, water and food nexus, water and energy nexus), water quality (pollution reduction, river basin management), and water disasters.

VI. Ocean

1. Enhance exchanges and cooperation on comprehensive ocean management, ocean spatial planning, marine knowledge, marine observation and surveillance, R&D of marine science and technology, growth of the marine economy and ocean energy use.

VII. Regional policy

1. Promote mutual understanding and cooperation in the field of regional policy. Continue to ensure the success of the EU-China High Level Dialogue and Seminar on Regional Policy, carry out exchanges on major regional policies including growth, competitiveness, innovation, regional cooperation, and coordinated regional development. Conduct joint research on basic and forward-looking issues of regional development, continue the capacity training programme for related personnel, encourage direct contacts and cooperation between respective regional and local authorities and promote pilot demonstration projects.

VIII. Social progress

1. Reinforce dialogue on social policies, promote social security and social cohesion, full and quality employment, occupational safety and health, and decent work, so as to address a number of challenges such as youth employment, social welfare, social assistance, demographic ageing, as well as migration flows and cross-country mobility.
2. Jointly implement the EU-China Social Protection Reform Project and the EU-China Occupational Safety and Health Project in High Risk Industries, and make better use of the existing dialogue mechanisms.

3. Enhance cooperation with the International Labour Organisation, in order to further promote the decent work agenda.

4. Expand dialogue and exchange in the field of health, including through cooperation with the World Health Organisation, especially the cooperation in antimicrobial resistance, e-health, prevention of cancer and regulatory dialogue on pharmaceuticals, with a view to ensuring the health and safety of citizens.

5. Expand dialogue and exchange concerning the rights of persons with disabilities according to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) in order to advance inclusion, counteract discrimination and remove barriers.

**IX. Public policy**

1. Based on the principle of equality and mutual trust, continue to develop dialogue and cooperation on legal and administrative affairs.

2. Develop an EU-China Public Policy Dialogue Mechanism as an important and long-term platform for dialogues, exchanges and cooperation in the public policy field.

3. Acknowledge the activities of the Round Table between the China Economic and Social Council and the European Economic and Social Committee, which was established by the 9th EU-China Summit, and call for its dialogue and activities to be further expanded, in particular in the fields of sustainable development, as well as trade and investment.

4. Promote policy exchange and facilitate cooperation and exchange of expertise in disaster prevention, preparedness and response to natural and technological disasters.

**X. Cooperation on global development**

1. Strengthen EU-China dialogue and cooperation on major international development issues as well as their respective development policies, including efforts to formulate and implement post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. Both sides agree to start an annual development dialogue at senior official level.
IV. PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGES

People-to-people exchanges are an essential vector of peace, while contributing to economic development. Together the EU and China represent over a quarter of the world's population. Expanding contacts between peoples on both sides is crucial to enhance common understanding and foster cross-fertilisation between societies.

Key initiatives:

I. Culture, education and youth

1. Fully harness the leading role of the EU-China High Level People-to-People Dialogue (HPPD) and promote the role of people-to-people exchanges as the third pillar of EU-China relations. Pursue the objectives set up in the EU-China HPPD Joint Declaration. Carry out the actions agreed in the "HPPD Follow-up Actions" document and seek new ways of strengthening their cooperation.

2. Anchor cultural cooperation on the principles of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Upgrade dialogue on culture policy, and strengthen mutual cooperation in the fields of cultural industries, heritage preservation and contemporary art. Continue to promote intellectual exchanges between the two sides in various forms and fora, including the EU-China High Level Cultural Forum.

3. Based on the principle of equality and friendship, encourage China and EU Member States to establish cultural centres. Boost long-term and stable cooperation between major cultural institutions and between important art festivals.

4. Encourage the learning of the Chinese language and EU languages in the education systems of the EU and China.

5. Expand students and scholars exchange, and support mutual exchange visits of young people. Work together on the EU-China Youth Policy Dialogue and the EU-China Symposia on Youth Work Development. Continue to implement the EU-China Youth Partnership for Friendship Programme supported by China and the EU Youth actions under Erasmus+.

6. Continue dialogue on education policy, notably in the framework of the Higher Education Platform for Cooperation and Exchanges, and strengthen the compatibility of the EU’s and China's education systems, via "Tuning China" and other initiatives.
7. Continue to support the establishment of centres for Chinese studies and centres for European national and regional studies by European and Chinese institutions.

8. Promote exchanges and cooperation between the EU and China in the fields of press, publication, radio, film and television.

II. Facilitation of people-to-people exchanges

1. Welcome the launch of the 2013 EU-China Mobility and Migration Dialogue, and continue to explore ways of facilitating exchanges for EU and Chinese citizens, including mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic passports, while strengthening cooperation on illegal migration.

2. Implement the 2013 Joint Statement in the field of sustainable tourism by China and the EU; in particular, set up a regular EU-China Tourism Dialogue and information exchange mechanism on respective initiatives and best practices in the development of sustainable tourism; facilitate exchange of information on the safety protection of tourists; and promote tourist flows, including the development of common projects.