

**AGREED PRINCIPLES TO PROMOTE ENHANCED TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENVIRONMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

As the People's Republic of China implements the 13th Five Year Plan and the EU works towards the goals of Europe 2020 and the 7th Environmental Action Programme, in line with the EU Strategy on China, the Directorate-General for Environment of the European Commission and the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) aim to cooperate on issues of mutual interest that contribute to green growth. Both administrations are fully committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development both domestically and internationally.

Both administrations intend to enhance co-operation in the framework of their Ministerial Environmental Dialogue on a number of key joint priority areas until 2019. The 6th EU-China Ministerial Dialogue on Environment Policy on 24 May 2016 initiated discussions on the orientation that technical cooperation should take.

This technical cooperation could take the form of exchange of experience and good practice, for example through dialogue, expert exchanges, study visits, and workshops.

This technical cooperation would be articulated around the following joint priorities:

1. Pollution Prevention and Control

In combatting and preventing pollution of air, water and soil, the following are fruitful areas for possible future technical cooperation:

- Permitting systems and their role in the success of pollution control policies. China is committed under the Action Plans for Air and Water to applying permitting systems to control air and water pollution and in particular integrated permitting systems and standards,
- Exchange of best practices, data monitoring and assessment on ways to improve ambient soil quality and technologies for risk assessment, pollution treatment and remediation of contaminated sites,
- Pollution control of VOCs,
- Emission standards, environmental management policies, and pollution prevention and control technologies to tackle air pollution,
- The implementation of respective domestic policies on the basis of a comprehensive multi-sector approach aimed at multiple pollutants;

- Sharing best practices on integrating environmental planning and management across administrative boundaries, for example for air pollution prevention and control or for the management of the water quality of river basins.

2. Environmental governance

Good environmental governance is reflected in both China's 13th Five Year Plan and the EU's 7th Environmental Action Programme. There is great potential for technical cooperation building on the legacy of earlier cooperation (in particular the Environmental Governance Programme) on ways to strengthen environmental governance with particular attention to:

- Sharing EU experience on integrating environmental planning and spatial management and control across administrative boundaries,
- Sharing EU experience on improving environmental legislation and enhancing effectiveness of implementation,
- Harnessing the power of information, in particular the role of 'big data' in environmental policy (role of central authorities, big data systems, lessons learned);
- Improving public participation in environmental protection and public access to environmental information with a view to achieving environmental compliance.

3. Green growth and environmental policies promoting a circular economy (including waste and chemicals management)

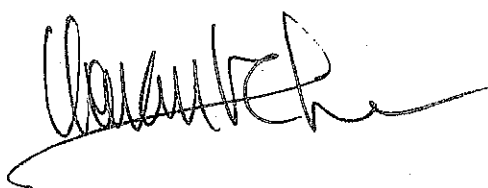
China and Europe are both developing models for green growth and initiatives for significant structural changes to their economies. Waste and chemicals management are common priorities and there is value in sharing experience on:

- Measures, monitoring, evaluation mechanisms and decision-support tools for green growth and green jobs, addressing the links between environment and economy and environment and society,
- Economic policies and market-based instruments for environmental protection, such as green finance,
- Waste management (with a particular emphasis on waste prevention; reuse, recycling and other recovery to support the transition to a circular economy), best practices and measures to increase producer responsibility with special focus on technologies and management of environmental risks associated with recycling for resource utilisation and environmentally sound disposal of hazardous wastes,
- Promoting durable, repairable, and easily recyclable products minimising the use of toxic substances,

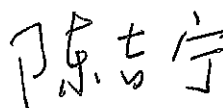
- Chemicals management (chemical risk assessment; establishment, management and use of chemical risk registers; chemicals in water management).

This text does not intend to create right or obligations under international law.

Done by exchange of letters, in duplicate, in the English and Chinese languages, both versions being equally valid.



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