



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ESTABLISHING AN EU-CHINA WATER POLICY DIALOGUE

Turku, Finland, 22 September 2017

The European Commission on behalf of the EU and the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China, hereafter referred to as "both sides":

Acknowledge the fact that the EU and China face common challenges with respect to the development, use, management and conservation of water resources, as well as the challenges posed by water management in the context of growing population, competing water demands, the pressing challenge of climate change and achieving the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals.

Recognise China's progress in improving water governance and ensuring water security and the EU's experience with developing legislative instruments, management and technological solutions to address the water challenges.

Recall that in the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation, the EU and China agreed to strengthen the EU-China Water Platform to *inter alia* promote water policy dialogue and they are willing to contribute to the implementation of the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation.

Acknowledge the progress of the China-Europe Water Platform (CEWP) in promoting water cooperation between China and the European countries and the support provided by the Partnership Instrument in the 2016 Annual Action Programme.

Intend to promote further implementation of the CEWP, involving the public and private sector, drawing on best practices and identifying innovative solutions.

Intend to strengthen and deepen water cooperation and identify key water management issues and approaches to sustainable development where cooperation and experience sharing on water resources management could be mutually beneficial.

To articulate the cooperation the Sides establish a **Water Policy Dialogue**, with a view to share knowledge on policy approaches and joint technical priorities.

Fields of cooperation

The Dialogue is expected to focus on the following areas:

- (1) Development and enforcement of water laws and legislations,
- (2) Development and implementation of water policies, planning and action plans,
- (3) Integrated water resources management, including urban water management,
- (4) Adaptation to climate change,
- (5) Water disaster mitigation and management, including floods and droughts, etc,
- (6) Protection of water ecosystems and environment,
- (7) Coordination and cooperation on international water issues,
- (8) Cooperation on joint programmes on applied research and business cooperation.

Both sides may, by mutual consent, extend the Dialogue to other topics that fall within its objectives.

Participants and working methods

The Water Policy Dialogue is led by high level officials of the two sides, as the European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and Minister of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China or officials authorised by them respectively. Other relevant stakeholders may take part in the Dialogue. The Dialogue should meet on regular basis and seek synergies, where appropriate, with CEWP and other initiatives in the area of cooperation on water issues and environmental policies. Technical meetings can be organised as necessary.

Financial arrangements

Both sides bear their own expenses arising from the implementation of the Dialogue and other activities carried out under this agreement.

Duration and non-binding character

This Dialogue is to take place for a period of five (5) years. After an initial period of five (5) years, the dialogue will continue unless either side communicates its wish to terminate it through written notification.

This Dialogue is not intended to create any legal or financial obligations under domestic or international law in respect of either side.

It is written in both English and Chinese.

For the European Union,

Member of the European Commission for
Environment, Maritime Affairs and
Fisheries,

Karmenu Vella



For the Ministry of Water Resources,
The People's Republic of China,

Minister,

Chen Lei


