

Joint Statement upon the establishment of the China-Europe Water Platform (CEWP)

The Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union currently held by Denmark, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia,

Recognizing that while water availability and water quality are essential for sustainable development and green growth, waters face many threats including floods and droughts, global population growth, urbanization, pollution, overexploitation, desertification, water and soil erosion, and climate change;

Considering the comparability and similarities of the regulatory framework in the water sector in China and the EU, notably the China 2011 No 1 Water Document and the EU Water Framework Directive;

Having noted the very successful cooperation between China and the EU under the River Basin Management Programme (RBMP) and taken into consideration that the RBMP is coming to its conclusion and that both sides would like to maintain and further develop the good spirit and the good results of the cooperation already achieved;

Considering that the EU Water Initiative (EUWI) has been identified as a relevant mechanism, as its approach and objectives fit the nature and ambition of the dialogue and cooperation both sides would like to undertake on this subject;

Agree to establish a China-Europe Water Platform (CEWP) with the political support of the EUWI based on reciprocity and mutual benefit for the following objectives:

- For China and Europe, as global leading regions, to cooperate in achieving good governance in managing water resources;
- Enhancing mutual understanding between China and Europe on approaches in integrated water resources policy development and implementation;
- Promote the exchange of innovative knowledge and technologies to meet common challenges caused in particular by on-going socio-economic development, urbanization and climate change;
- Synergizing, for mutual benefit, existing and future cooperation, research and private sector involvement, focused and efficient exchange of experiences and best practices in sustainable, environment-friendly integrated water resources management;
- Creating opportunities for Chinese and European private sector and research institutes to undertake business development and joint research programs of common interest;

The cooperation among the various stakeholders involved in the CEWP, which may include government agencies, river basin authorities, research institutes, municipalities, NGOs and the private sector etc, will be assisted by a European Secretariat hosted by one of the member states and a Chinese Secretariat hosted by Ministry of Water Resources. The activities of the CEWP may include policy dialogue, joint research, and business-oriented projects and will be implemented with funding made available by both sides. The joint statement could be upgraded into a Memorandum of Understanding between the two sides after passing relevant procedures and obtaining legal approval.

An appendix defining operational setup has been agreed upon.



Chen Lei
For the
Ministry of Water
Resources of the People's
Republic of China



Ida Auken
For the
Member States of the
European Union and
Croatia

Signed on 14 March 2012 in Marseille