

**Joint Agreed Minutes of the Second Chairs' Meeting
of EU - China Connectivity Platform**

The second Chairs' meeting of the EU - China Connectivity Platform took place in Brussels, Belgium, on 1st June 2017. The meeting was opened 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 (EEAS), as well the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). After the opening speech, Mrs Bulc delegated the co-chair of the meeting to Mrs Bakran Marcich, Deputy Director General of DG MOVE. The Chinese delegation was led by Mr Hu Zucui, Vice-Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), delegated by the Chinese Co-chair Mr He Lifeng, Chairman of NDRC, and comprised of officials from NDRC, the Ministry of Transport (MOT), General Administration of Customs of China, National Railway Administration, Civil Aviation Administration of China, China Railway Corporation (CRC) and China Development Bank (CDB).

The meeting was held in a very constructive spirit and friendly atmosphere, and showed the benefits of the EU-China Connectivity Platform in the context of EU-China partnership.

The key conclusions of the meeting are:

1. The two sides welcomed the progress of the EU-China Connectivity Platform, which has the potential to promote and develop economic growth.

2. The two sides appreciated the results of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in Beijing in May and stressed that the collaboration on the Belt and Road Initiative and on Trans-European Transport Networks should be strengthened to promote sustainable infrastructure development and connectivity.
3. The two sides stressed the importance that the Connectivity Platform brings prosperity not only to China and the European Union, but to all other countries concerned. In this regard, they welcomed the presentations, which took place at the Working Group, on the extension of EU Trans-European Transport Networks to the Western Balkans, Turkey and EU Eastern Neighbourhood, and on the Chinese projects in Central Asia and along the Belt and Road.
4. The two sides highlighted the fundamental role of transparency, openness and inclusiveness as common principles to ensure mutual benefits EU-China in connectivity cooperation.
5. The two sides welcomed the outcomes of the First and Second Expert Group Meeting on Investment and Financing Cooperation and the Second Working Group Meeting of the Connectivity Platform.
6. The two sides confirmed that the Connectivity Platform will continue to focus on two strands: (i) policy exchange and alignment on the principles and priorities in fostering connectivity between EU and China, with appropriate involvement of all relevant stakeholders; (ii) projects cooperation and investment, both at the level of strategic planning of priority corridors involving relevant countries along these corridors - where EU Member States, China and possibly other parties can cooperate.
7. The two sides support the active role of CDB, EIB and EBRD in the financial cooperation for projects under EU-China connectivity platform.

8. The two sides confirmed that the Expert Group will continue to work to identify concrete projects on the basis of the key principles: (i) promote economic – social and environmentally sustainable projects; (ii) geographic balance between regions; (iii) projects should be on EU's TEN-T corridors and their extensions to the third countries, the key passageways of the Belt and Road Initiative, or contribute to the objectives in the MoU establishing the EU-China Connectivity Platform. (iv) projects are proposed by the countries concerned on voluntary basis; (v) level-playing-field among investors and project promoters as well as transparency in the project list.

9. The two sides highlighted the need to promote projects in accordance with the above mentioned principles or alternatively a more efficient use of the existing infrastructure. The two sides agreed to further develop the concept of "green decarbonized connectivity" between the EU and China. The two sides also agreed to share experience of policies set up to promote decarbonized transport with an emphasis on urban areas.

10. The two sides took note of the new projects that were presented in the Expert Group and stressed that the EU and China shall work together with a view to determine a mechanism to identify and promote projects at an earlier stage in conformity with the two parties' policies and regulatory frameworks and update this list on a regular basis. The Chairs expressed their support to initiatives to upgrade infrastructure which contribute to sustainable growth in the Euro-Asian region, in the respect of the applicable legislation.

11. The two sides will further enhance the Connectivity Platform to support the implementation of the projects identified in the list and ensure the involvement of relevant stakeholders on a case by case basis.

12. The two sides will increase cooperation on transportation facilitation between China and EU, focusing on container trains and conduct in-depth cooperation in enhancing cost-effectiveness, operating efficiency and diversity of goods on a market basis.

13. The two sides will enhance cooperation in order to promote not only infrastructure but also decarbonised and green transport. Specifically regarding maritime transport, cooperation and coordination on maritime issues can be further enhanced to provide the right impetus in the development of an IMO initial strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from ships in 2018, in accordance with the roadmap agreed in IMO.

14. The two sides agreed on the importance of customs cooperation for improving connectivity between the EU and China. They noted that new opportunities and challenges have arisen in the context of EU-China customs cooperation as the EU and China continue to consolidate and develop their strategic partnership to promote peace, prosperity and sustainable development.

15. Building upon the joint agreed minutes of the first Chair's Meeting, the two sides agreed to practically promote connectivity cooperation based on market rules and international norms, and to promote a level playing field in projects on the EU-China Connectivity Platform, so as to create a better environment for fair and open access to investment in the transport field.

The two sides instructed the Working Group to continue working in this field.

16. The parties agreed that they shall cooperate and exchange information on standards including international standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. For this purpose, both sides will provide information on their respective rail-related standards making use of the existing China-European standardisation platform (CESIP).

17. The two sides agreed to hold the Third Meeting of the Chairs in 2018. The specific timing will be discussed and confirmed by both sides.

Representative of the European side Violeta Bulc EU Commissioner for Mobility and Transport	Representative of the Chinese side Hu Zucai Vice-Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China
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Appendix: List of Participants of the Meeting