

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON REGIONAL POLICY COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
AND THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM
COMMISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Directorate General for Regional Policy of the European Commission and the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China have decided **to set up a Structured Dialogue on Regional Policy** with the following principles, objectives, content and organisation:

1. PRINCIPLES

The structured dialogue on regional policy between the Directorate General for Regional Policy of the European Commission and the National Development and Reform Commission is the forum where all related regional policy issues can be discussed.

2. OBJECTIVES

- (1) Promote mutual understanding and bilateral co-operation in the field of regional policy;
- (2) Establish communication channels so as to strengthen the exchange of information.

3. CONTENT

- (1) Exchange information on policies contributing to growth, competitiveness and employment and to achieve a better territorial balance.
- (2) Exchange information of our experiences in setting up and implementing regional policy
- (3) Exchange views on governance and partnership issues.
- (4) Any other topics of mutual interest relating to regional policy

4. ORGANISATION

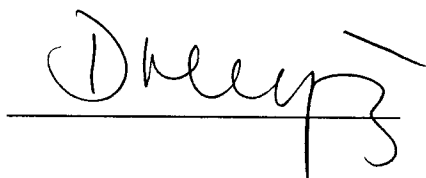
- (1) Both sides nominate senior officials as co-chairperson for the dialogue and establish contact points in the Directorate General for Regional Policy of the European Commission and the National Development and Reform Commission. Both sides will be responsible for the co-ordination of the dialogue. According to the needs, both sides may decide to set up ad-hoc technical working groups to work together on specific issues and to facilitate discussions at expert level.

- (2) The level and composition of the delegations in the meetings will be decided by each side in consultation with the other. It is understood that both sides will call upon relevant stakeholders to participate in the dialogue. At least one meeting will take place each year. The precise agenda for each meeting will be decided beforehand between both sides. Both sides may invite other Ministries and Directorates Generals to take part in the meetings subject to need and agreement by both sides. There should be mutually agreed minutes in English and Chinese after every meeting.
- (3) The venue for the meetings will alternate between the European Union and China unless otherwise decided.
- (4) Specific events can be jointly organised as appropriate.
- (5) Both sides bear their own delegation's cost of the participation in the dialogue. One side will provide active support and assistance to the other. The cost of the agreed specific events will be decided in consultation between both sides.

This Memorandum of Understanding records political intent alone and provides for no legal commitment.

Done in Beijing on the 15th May 2006 in two original copies, each of them in English and Chinese.

Commissioner Danuta Hübner
Member of the European
Commission
Responsible for Regional Policy



Mr. Zhu Zhixin
Vice Chairman of
National Development and Reform
Commission

