



Water Directors of the European Union

Water Sector Division  
June 29th, 2012

**Information about the China Europe Water Platform and invitation for participation of the EU Member States**

Dear Colleague,

This letter is to notify you on the progress and anticipated content of the China Europe Water Platform (CEWP).

Further, this letter urges you to take note of a number of milestones soon to come for the development of the CEWP as well as of a range of opportunities for the possible participation of your country in the CEWP.

At the World Water Forum in Marseille, March 14<sup>th</sup> 2012, 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 signed a joint statement in which they agreed to establish a China-Europe Water Platform (CEWP) with the political support of the EU Water Initiative.

The CEWP ensures a continuation of the policy dialogue on water management, which was established with the 5-year River Basin Management Program (RBMP) now coming to an end. The CEWP, however, being based on an equal partnership with mutual benefits, will imply a fundamental change in the mode of co-operation.

The RBMP, which was an aid-based project, have resulted in a range of results, which were presented at its closing session held in Beijing during June 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. The results, analysis etc may be found at the knowledge center of the RBMP at the RBMP website <http://www.euchinarivers.org>.

The CEWP will promote policy dialogue between China and Europe about challenges, possible solutions and activities related to the water, food security and energy nexus. Further, it will aim at facilitating the initiation of a vast number of partnerships involving Chinese and European business, research and public institutions.

Participation is open to representatives of the Government of China, EU Member States, European Commission, EU Delegation to China, international organisations, NGOs; water utilities and the business community.

A joint secretariat for CEWP has been established by the People's Republic of China and Denmark acting as CEWP lead on behalf of the European Union's Member States.

The CEWP will be convened in late September 2012, where the 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Group Meeting, a high level Policy Dialogue and a number of technical sessions will be held in conjunction with the 5<sup>th</sup> International Yellow River Forum 24-28 September 2012 in Zhengzhou, China.

./ Please find in this letter attached the draft Work Program 2012–2015 outlining the expected content and objectives for the CEWP. The draft Work Program was discussed by the CEWP Secretariat at meetings in Beijing during June 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. Further, they were also discussed with the EU Delegation to China and Mongolia and presented to the EU Member States Environment Counselors in Beijing.

All EU member states are invited to:

- Participate in a seminar to be held in Stockholm on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August in conjunction with the World Water Week and the EUWI Multi-stakeholder Forum to consult with key stakeholders.
- Express their views and provide feed-back to the Danish secretariat on the structure, content and activities of the CEWP before the Stockholm seminar in August. To have your feed-back in due time for its inclusion in the deliberations at the seminar please provide this no later than the 24<sup>th</sup> of August, 2012.
- Take active part in planning a technical session during the International Yellow River Forum (IYRF) 24-28 September 2012 in Zhengzhou, China. For planning purposes this information must be received by the Danish secretariat before July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in order to be included in the preparations for the IYRF.
- Assume a co-lead role for approval at the first-coming Steering Group meeting. This must be put forward to the Secretariat no later than 24<sup>th</sup> of August, 2012. It remains an opportunity to take the role as Co-Lead also at a later stage, after the IYRF. Information on this process will be shared with EU Member States after the IYRF.
- Appoint national focal points for CEWP for the secretariats to interact and communicate with. The focal points should also serve as the key channel for information to national stakeholders and potential partners in CEWP. The focal points will be made public at the website of the CEWP.

We hope that you will find opportunities in active contribution to the CEWP relevant and will take advantage of this opportunity to contribute to meeting the objectives of the CEWP and thus increase cooperation in achieving good water governance, enhancing mutual understanding and promoting the

exchange of knowledge and technologies between China and Europe to meet common challenges within water management.

The Danish secretariat welcomes your comments and views on the above mentioned subjects. Please inform the Danish secretariat of any interests in setting up meetings to bring the cooperation forward.

For further information, please contact the Head of the CEWP Secretariat, Mr. Henrik Dissing, [hedis@nst.dk](mailto:hedis@nst.dk), +45 41782030 / +45 72544895.

Yours sincerely

  
Helle Pilsgaard  
Water Director