

## **JOINT DECLARATION**

Of

Mr. Ján Figel', Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth  
European Commission

And

Mr. Sun Jiazheng, Minister for Culture  
People's Republic of China

### **European Commission and the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China wish to reinforce cooperation in the field of culture.**

European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Mr Ján Figel' and Minister for Culture, Mr Sun Jiazheng, have declared their willingness to further strengthen cooperation between the European Commission and the People's Republic of China in the field of culture. They made this declaration during the official visit of Commissioner Figel' to the People's Republic of China which took place from 18 to 23 October 2007.

The European Commission and the Chinese Ministry of Culture acknowledge the crucial contribution of culture to improve mutual understanding and tolerance, and believe that enhancing cooperation is important in order to strengthen their respective situations in a global society.

Commissioner Figel' and Minister Sun recalled the intentions of the EU-China Summit Joint Statement held in Helsinki on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2006 which recognized the significance of cultural diversity for sustainable development and supported increasing cultural interaction and relations between the EU Member States and China.

Commissioner Figel' and Minister Sun recalled the ongoing negotiations for a more comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and China and stressed the importance of including within the Agreement specific references to culture.

With regard to the initiatives that were suggested in the 2003 Joint Declaration between Commissioner Reding and Minister Sun, Commissioner Figel' and Minister Sun welcomed the ratification by the European Community and China of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

They noted the importance of promoting the use of existing instruments and of supporting cooperation projects concerning for example the Community Culture Programme Special Action with China in 2007-2009.

Taking into account these positive developments, Commissioner Figel' and Minister Sun jointly declared the following intentions:

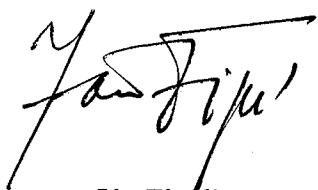
- The European Commission and the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China decide to set up a structured policy dialogue on cultural affairs. It will cover issues of common interest such as the promotion of cultural diversity, cultural industries, and any other relevant issues jointly identified.

- The policy dialogue will consist of regular exchanges of best practice, reviews of policy developments and challenges, promoting knowledge building and sharing on cultural issues of interest for the European Community and China.
- Both sides will jointly set up a rolling work programme for the dialogue and cooperation on cultural policies, regularly review its implementation and discuss avenues for future cooperation. To this end, senior officials from both sides will meet in principle once a year with the venue alternating between Brussels and Beijing or any other venue agreed by both sides. Other occasional meetings may be held as necessary. Both sides will jointly coordinate the meetings and nominate senior officials as co-chairpersons. Both sides will produce agreed conclusions after each meeting.
- Specific events such as seminars, workshops and expert meetings may be jointly organized at a later stage with the participation of relevant stakeholders.
- Both sides will bear their own delegation's cost of participation in the dialogue and cooperation. The cost of agreed specific events will be decided in consultation between both sides.

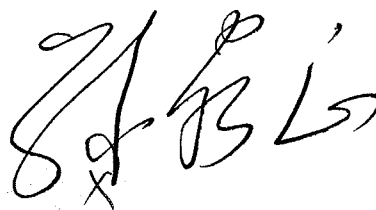
The organization and the determination of the priorities described above will be mutually arranged by the European Commission's Directorate General for Education, Training, Culture and Youth and the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China.

The provisions of this Joint Declaration express political intent and are not designed to create legal rights or obligations under international law.

This Joint Declaration is signed in Beijing on the 22 of October 2007.



Ján Figel'  
European Commissioner  
for Education, Training, Culture and Youth  
European Union



Sun Jiazheng  
Minister for Culture  
People's Republic of China