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"EU WINDOW" China-EU language exchange programme

On June 2 the Commissioner for Multilingualism, Mr. Leonard Orban, and the Vice Minister of Education of China, Mr. Zhang Xinsheng, will officially launch the China-EU Language Exchange Programme, entitled "EU Window". There will be a launching ceremony on June 2 2008 at 5pm at the President's Gallery of the Berlaymont. The "EU Window" is a four-year project (2009-2013) presented on the occasion of the 10th China-EU Summit (November 2007) and sponsored by the Chinese Government. It will provide opportunities for 200 European school teachers of Chinese language as well as 400 school headmasters from Member States to enhance their Chinese proficiency and the understanding of Chinese culture.

"This language exchange programme is an important step both in encouraging language learning and in fostering inter-cultural understanding", said Commissioner Orban.

The first phase of the Programme EU WINDOW will last for two years and will consist of two activities:

Summer training for 50 Chinese Language teachers from EU member states

A ten day study visit of 100 School Headmasters and Education Administrators from EU member states.

Participants will be responsible for their own international travel expenses with other expenses in China being borne by China.

### **Background**

In the first edition of the China-EU language scholarship scheme (carried out in 2007) targeted at students, approximately 100 European students received scholarships to study Chinese in China. Most of students came from Poland (23), Germany (17), Italy (15) and Belgium (8).

In the context of EU-China structural dialogue in the field of education and culture a first technical meeting between representatives of the Commission and the Chinese MoE took place on 31 January 2008 in Brussels. The parties agreed on 3 main priority subjects (language teaching, joint PhDs and education through sport) to be developed into cooperation activities in the two forthcoming years.

The first activity will be the organisation of a conference on languages to be held in Beijing in March 2009 which should coincide with the visit of Commissioner Orban to China. In order to prepare the conference a steering group is being created. It will be made up of Chinese and European language experts.

China continues to be among the best performing countries under Erasmus Mundus(education mobility programmes). 450 Chinese students (out of a total of approx. 4000) have benefited or are benefiting from scholarships to study in Europe and 20 Chinese universities participate in partnerships with Erasmus Mundus consortia.

Commissioner : [http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/orban/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/orban/index_en.htm)

Languages in the EU: <http://europa.eu/languages/>

Chinese Mission to the EU: <http://www.chinamission.be/eng/ofzz/t398585.htm>

VNR on "China-Europe International Business School"

[http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/video\\_prod\\_en.cfm?type=detail&prodid=6004&src=1](http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/video_prod_en.cfm?type=detail&prodid=6004&src=1)

[http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/video\\_prod\\_en.cfm?type=detail&prodid=6003&src=1](http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/video_prod_en.cfm?type=detail&prodid=6003&src=1)