

China-EU Connectivity Platform 2019 Annual Action Plan

In a bid to implement the Meeting Minutes for the third Chairs' Meeting of EU-China Connectivity Platform and the requirements of EU-China Connectivity Platform Short-Term Action Plan, the 2019 Annual Action Plan under the China-EU Connectivity Platform (hereinafter referred to the Platform) is hereby formulated, thus to promote the construction of the Platform, enrich the cooperation content and produce pragmatic cooperation achievements.

I. Organize a study

Centering on the synergies between the Belt and Road Initiative, the extending lines of Trans-European Transport Network (hereinafter referred to TEN-T) covering Western Balkans and cooperative initiatives of neighboring countries, China and EU will carry out an joint study on establishing a new EU-China transport corridor via Balkan Peninsula, which will make proposals to identify and prioritize the missing links, clear the bottleneck sections, improve the transport capacity of key hubs and the transport service quality, so as to finalize a report by the end of April 2019. In a bid to strengthen the independence of the study, the third party organizations like World Bank will be invited to join in the work.

II. Promote cooperation projects

By the end of 2019, in line with the reciprocity principle, China and EU will select some key hubs and missing links along both the EU-China cargo train routes and TEN-T from the pilot projects and priority actions' list or other relevant projects, organize in-depth exchanges involving investors of interest on these projects' planning and construction, and promote the cooperation parties to reach agreements and strive to sign contracts by the end of 2019.

III. Conduct policy exchanges

By the end of June 2019, China and the EU will respectively formulate a set of guidebooks on investment management policies and construction standards in the field of transport infrastructure, and will conduct a training program, so as to make the investors from both sides become more informed of the investment rules.

IV. Organize a technical discussion

By the end of 2019, centering on the soft connectivity under the EU-China infrastructure connectivity, research institutes, colleges and universities from both sides will be encouraged to carry out technical discussions and academic exchanges

on compatible and normative transport rules, transnational public information platform construction, the standardization of waybills, and the facilitation of customs clearance, thus to put forward valuable opinions and suggestions.

V. Organize an expert workshop

Given the increasing importance of planning and policy research in the cooperation under the Platform, by the end of 2019, China and EU will establish an expert group on policy research following the model of the expert group on investment and financing. The expert group on policy research will work under the framework of Working Group and organize an expert workshop on smoothing the China-EU transport corridor and promoting hard connectivity and soft connectivity, etc.

Both sides agree to give support to promote the work as scheduled through providing detailed research materials, applying necessary budget, inviting relevant experts, etc., hold regular video conferences, meetings, thus to follow closely the progress, strengthen communication and coordination on the work tasks with slow progress, accelerate the work process, ensure all work fully implemented and produce results soon.