



EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Support Project
支持中欧人员往来和移民领域对话项目

Briefing to EU Member States –
Revised Permanent Residence Permit
“Green Card”

Beijing, 5 April, 2017

Summary Report



Under the framework of the *EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Support Project*, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) facilitated, on 5 April 2017, a briefing for European officials on the revised Chinese permanent residence permit, commonly known as the “*Chinese Green Card*”. The briefing gathered 18 participants, including consular staff from 14 EU Member States, Switzerland and Iceland, who were informed on the detailed features of the *Green Card* system and how it fits in the Chinese Government immigration toolbox as a useful integration channel for foreigners seeking long-term residence prospects in China.

The presentation on the revised *Green Card* was done by Dr Huiyao (Henry) WANG, President and Founder of the Centre for China & Globalization (CCG) who provided the insights in its capacity as China’s leading think-tank dedicated to research on various



EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Support Project
支持中欧人员往来和移民领域对话项目

migration topics, including the globalization of Chinese talents and the attraction of highly-skilled migrant workers to China.

China began to issue permanent residence permits in 2004 and, back then, it was one of the most difficult to obtain. Since 2008, the Chinese government has made progress to improve employment services and welfare for foreigners living in China. The latest revisions of the Green Card follow the efforts pursued by the government to attract foreigners and its diaspora to come to China and join its workforce, take up entrepreneurship projects, as well as study in its universities and undertake research or simply seek settlement for family reunification in China.

The 2016 reform, *Announcement about Strengthening Service Management for Foreigners with Permanent Residency*, underwent review to ease procedures as well as to extend quotas and the range of organizations that can assist their foreign employees to apply for the Green Card. Under the new provisions, the categories for eligible candidates have been extended, the maximum age limitations lifted, the number of supporting documents required for the application reduced, the time required for application procedures shorten, and the social welfare provisions revised in an effort to improve the usability and acceptance of the green card within Chinese institutions. The new provisions also provide for fast track services for eligible foreigners on transferring their status from employment residence to permanent residence. Final objective will be to guarantee more rights and services equal to those of Chinese citizens, such as with banks, transportation companies, entry and exit borders etc.

Dr Wang also provided a synopsis of the various talent attraction initiatives being implemented by the Chinese Government at national and regional levels including the Thousand Talent Scheme, Green card schemes in Zhongguancun, Shanghai and Guangzhou, among others.

Feedback from European embassies was very positive as the presentation will enable them to provide accurate information to their citizens willing to apply for the Chinese permanent residence permit. So far, IOM received follow-up questions and assistance from the embassies of Ireland, Switzerland, Belgium, Bulgaria and Germany.

Annexes:

Annex 1: Agenda

Annex 2: List of participants