China and EU exchange experiences on Measures to Prevent and Address Human Trafficking (Austria, Bulgaria and France), 19-28 October 2015

IOM Press Briefing Note

IOM is contributing to the growing dialogue between EU and China on migration and mobility. In close coordination with the Chinese Ministries of Public Security (MPS) and Foreign Affairs (MFA), IOM Liaison Office to China will next week facilitate a study tour to Austria, France and Bulgaria under the subject of ‘Measures to prevent and address human trafficking’.

The study tour will be conducted in the framework of the ‘EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Support Project’, funded by the European Union (EU), Partnership Instrument (PI). The project seeks to establish an engaged dialogue between EU and China on migration and mobility through maximizing the benefits of regular migration and address the risks and challenges of irregular migration. As a contribution to the improvement of EU-China cooperation on reducing the risks of irregular migration, the study tour aims to enhance information-sharing mechanisms for joint investigative operations between European and Chinese authorities that are tasked to combat human trafficking.

Pär Liljert, Head of IOM Liaison Office to China, described the high-level officials participating in the study tour as “the most senior Chinese delegation to participate in an IOM activity of this kind”. He expressed his hope that the meetings between senior officials will lead to closer cooperation on identification and assistance to victims of trafficking.

Despite many challenges, both sides have increased their efforts to step-up the fight against organized crime, including trafficking and smuggling networks, through developing legal frameworks that support and improve the quality of joint investigations on trafficking. During the last 12 months IOM has witnessed an increase in the return of victims of trafficking from Europe to China. With an increase in smuggling trends to Europe due to the ongoing migration crisis, the exchange visit is seen as a timely way to facilitate exchange of experiences between EU and China on trafficking and smuggling and strengthen their cooperation in this area.

For further information please contact:
Pär Liljert, Head of Mission, IOM Liaison Office to China, email: pliljert@iom.int (+86 010 59799695)