



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

Forum on EU-China Migration and Mobility

7 May 2018, Beijing

SUMMARY REPORT



On May 7 2018, on the occasion of H.E. Ambassador William Lacy Swing’s last visit to China as IOM Director General, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) hosted the *Forum on EU-China Migration and Mobility*.

The Forum is under the framework of “*EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Support Project*” (MMSP), funded by the Partnership Instrument (PI) of the European Union (EU) and implemented by IOM and International Labour Organization (ILO). The activity marked the three-year anniversary of the *EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Support Project*, and it was an opportunity for IOM, the European Union and other key stakeholders to reflect and take stock on the project to date. The activity and the discussions around it provided an important opportunity for discussion on the milestones achieved, lessons learnt, challenges prevailing and future prospects in the various result areas of the project. It was also an opportunity to bid farewell to Ambassador Swing who will step down as Director General of IOM later this year.



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The Forum brought together around one hundred of IOM and ILO's major stakeholders, including officials from the European Union Member States and Schengen Zone embassies, officials from the EU Delegation, officials from ILO and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and officials from Chinese authorities, namely the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Security and the recently established National Immigration Administration.

Officiated by DG Swing, participants also had the opportunity to hear from the Deputy Head of EU Delegation, Mr Christopher Wood; Deputy Director General of the National State Immigration, Mr Liu Shibin; and IOM China Chief of Mission, Mr Pär Liljert.

The speakers addressed a series of key points:

DG Swing noted that we live in a world on the move. Global estimates show that there were around 244 million international migrants in the world in 2015, yet the great majority of people in the world do not migrate across borders; much larger numbers migrate within their own countries. Most migration occurs in safe circumstances, however, in recent years we have seen an increase in irregular migration, as well as displacement occurring due to conflict, persecution, environmental degradation and change.

Migration is becoming an increasing high priority in policy. DG Swing commended the European Union and China's commitment to promote safe and orderly migration, and, particularly, he noted their commitment to the MMSP project, which brings together European and Chinese migration policymakers and practitioners to exchange best practices and experiences.

Ever since his first visit to China over thirty years ago, DG Swing has witnessed the country's growing commitment to migration issues. Two major milestones in this commitment have been achieved in recent years: in 2007, IOM opened its liaison office in Beijing, and China moved to become an official member of IOM in 2016. The recent establishment of three new government entities – the National Immigration Administration, the International Development Cooperation Agency and the Ministry for Emergency Management – is further evidence of this commitment. All of these ministries are essential for the formulation of good migration policies and effective migration management.

Migration is not so much a problem to be solved, but a human reality to be managed through partnership. DG Swing concluded by underlining again the excellent partnership that has been established between China and Europe.



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During his visit, DG Swing also officially launched the IOM “*WeChat APP*” providing Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) to Chinese workers migrating to Europe. DG noted that the PDO material demonstrates IOM’s ongoing efforts to ensure migrants are equipped with basic, firsthand information to facilitate their preparation while in China and integration once in their destination country in Europe.

Christopher Wood, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to China, emphasized that migration is an important element of the EU-China agenda, and outlined the successes achieved through the EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility on all aspects of migration.

Mr Liu warmly welcomed IOM DG on his last official visit to China and commended him for his proactive support and continuous effort in promoting China’s membership in IOM. He emphasized the key role that collaboration plays in addressing migration issues and praised MMSP for promoting technical cooperation between China and the EU on several migration aspects.

Mr Liu also explained that the National Immigration Administration is part of the context of China’s opening-up and greater involvement in migration issues, and it should be seen as evidence of China’s commitment to achieve deeper engagement in global migration.

Mr Liljert, in one of his final official events as IOM China Chief of Mission, also stressed the importance of partnership and collaboration and expressed his satisfaction for the results achieved through IOM collaboration with China during his seven years at IOM China. Migration is a unique and complex phenomenon, he noted, and this can be seen from the variety of partners IOM works with. Both Chinese and European partners have contributed greatly to the success that the EU-China migration and mobility support project has achieved so far.

The Forum closed with a reception which provided participants with the opportunity to network, exchange ideas, and address any questions they had through the course of the event. This open exchange of ideas and information served to further highlight the excellent relationships that have been established between IOM China, European Union and Schengen Zone member states, and Chinese government partners. Such relationships and partnerships are key for good migration management in today’s world on the move.