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European Commission and China step up co-operation on clean coal technologies and other energy issues

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Reference: IP/06/190 Date: 20/02/2006

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Brussels, 20 February 2006

European Commission and China step up co-operation on clean coal technologies and other energy issues

During his visit to China next week, Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chinese government on near-zero emissions power generation technology. The Commissioner will be in China to attend the 6th EU - China Energy conference in Shanghai, which brings together EU and Chinese policy makers and energy industrialists. The conference will address issues such as the security of energy supplies, promoting renewable energy and increasing energy efficiency, strengthening nuclear safety and interaction between energy, research and environment. The MoU will encourage the development of technology allowing the capture and underground storage of carbon dioxide emitted from coal-fired power stations, a matter of potential significance in the fight against climate change. Commissioner Piebalgs will also meet Chinese energy policy leaders, attend conferences on electricity and natural gas and visit plants which are already applying energy efficient or clean coal technology.

Commissioner Piebalgs underlined that "tackling the carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants is an important step in improving the global environment. By reducing the environmental impact of coal, it will remain a viable part of our energy mix for some time. Energy is one of the EU's foremost concerns and I am glad to have this opportunity to discuss the way ahead with my Chinese counterparts." Commissioner Potočník added "this new agreement on zero emission power generation is another example of the developing partnership between the EU and China in science and research".

Carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power generation are growing rapidly and represent a serious challenge to the long-term stability of our climate. China, the world's second largest consumer of energy after the United States, is heavily dependent on coal, which accounts for 70% of its energy consumption. In 2004 China consumed some 34% of the coal used worldwide and generated 74% of the growth in world coal consumption. China wishes to reduce coal-related environmental pollution in cities. It is also keen to make use of the possibility to use coal to produce liquid fuels and hydrogen, technology that would reduce its dependency on imported oil and help diversify its energy supply. Estimates show that carbon dioxide emissions from increasing coal use in China are growing rapidly, so there is a pressing need to tackle environmental pollution and energy security in China.


As stressed at the last EU-China summit, both are committed to working together to combat their common challenges of energy security, increasing pressure on global energy resources and climate change. The MoU builds upon and strengthens work such as the Action Plans on clean coal technologies and energy efficiency & renewable energy, the EU-China Dialogue on Energy and Transport Strategies, the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement and the EU-China Energy and Environment Programme. The EU and China are also developing their overall co-operation on science matters. : There are more than 100 joint research projects carried out by Chinese and European teams, worth about €300 million and China is a partner in the Galileo satellite system and the ITER fusion project.

The Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by Commissioner Piebalgs and Ma Songde, Vice Minister for Science and Technology in Shanghai, in the margins of the 6th EU-China Energy Conference. This conference, which takes place every two years gathers together high-level representatives of European and Chinese energy companies. A wide range of issues are discussed, from reinforcing the security of energy supplies and increasing energy efficiency, to the interaction between energy, research and environmental policies.

During his visit, Commissioner Piebalgs will hold a number of bilateral meetings with senior Chinese representatives in the Ministry of Science & Technology, National Development Reform Commission, Development Research Centre of the State Council and regulators. He will open conferences on electricity co-operation and Natural Gas. The Commissioner intends to visit the Huayi Group which is applying clean coal gasification technology to produce energy, and the Boashan steel plant which is developing energy saving technology.

For more information on the EU's relations with China:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/china/intro/index.htm

For more information on European efforts to boost Zero Emissions Technology see [IP/05/1512](#).



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EU and Japan agree on cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy

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IP/06/236

Brussels, 27 February 2006

EU and Japan agree on cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy

The European Commission and Japan signed today an Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. The Agreement will provide a stable framework for the development of nuclear trade between the two parties and facilitate co-operation in areas of common interest, such as safeguards.

"Today's event opens a new chapter in the successful relations between the EU and Japan. The agreement will provide industry with the stable and predictable long-term framework necessary for the implementation and conclusion of commercial arrangements in the nuclear field", said Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs.

Co-operation between the EU and Japan will take place in strict compliance with international rules on non-proliferation, safeguards, safety and physical protection of nuclear material. It also takes into account the specific concerns for transparency with regard to sensitive nuclear material, in particular plutonium. Apart from its political dimension, the Agreement also includes a strong commercial component estimated at tens of billions of euros for the time of its duration.

The Agreement will initially run over a period of 30 years. Co-operation will take place in areas such as nuclear technology, nuclear reactors, nuclear safety and radiation protection, the nuclear fuel cycle and nuclear safeguards. A separate Agreement will be concluded to cover nuclear research at a later stage.

The initiative for the conclusion of an Agreement on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy came into being at the EU/Japan Summit in 1998. It was reaffirmed in the ten-year EU-Japan Action Plan adopted in December 2001 and follows upon the Japan-USA and Euratom-USA Agreements.

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India-EU Energy Conference

[Draft programme](#)**The 1st India-EU business conference on energy will take place in New Delhi on 6 April 2006**

India's role in the world's energy markets is increasing due to its rapidly developing economy and increasing demand for energy. This conference has to be seen in the context of the recently started concrete cooperation in the field of energy between India and the European Union. The main objective of the conference is to allow European and Indian industries to establish business contacts. Common promotion of investment climate, advanced technologies in thermal power generation, promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency as well as the issue of clean transport figure on the agenda. The participation of up to 100 high-ranking representatives from industry, associations and think tanks from both the EU and India is expected.

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