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# MINUTES

## FIFTH MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE BOARD

*ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN CHINA AND THE CEE COUNTRIES*

**Date:** Thursday, August 24, 2017

**Time:** 15:00 PM

**Location:** Grand Hotel Union, Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Present:**

- Bulgaria – Mr. Vasil Gelev, Mr. Adrian Georgiev
- China – Mr. Li Kaihang
- Croatia - Mrs. Mihaela Bajkovac
- Czech Republic – Mr. Jan Holub
- Estonia – Mr. Olavi Petron
- Hungary – Ms Klára Szekér, Ms Anna Bálint
- Lithuania – Ms. Jekaterina Dmitrijeva, Ms. Kristina Dubikovaitė
- Macedonia – Mrs. Lidija Cadikovska
- Poland – Ms. Magdalena Zelazna
- Romania – Mrs. Livia Chivu
- Serbia - Mr. Radojko Obradovic, Mrs. Aleksandra Čupovic
- Slovak Republic – Mr. Ing. Milan Paksi
- Slovenia – Mrs. Tadeja Kvas Majer, Mr. Martin Gosenca

**Absent:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Latvia, Montenegro

**I Call to order:** at 15:30 AM by Chair Vasil Gelev

**II Quorum:** thirteen of seventeen countries present

**III Discussion of the Annual Activities of the Association 2017**



We, the Consultative Board of the Association for the Promotion of Agricultural Cooperation between China and the CEE countries, have met on August 24, 2017 in Ljubljana, Slovenia to discuss the annual activities of the Association for 2017.

Mr. Vasil Gelev called the Meeting to order at 15:30 pm.

A quorum of Members was presented and the Meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with the Agenda.

During the meeting, Qianhai Central Eastern Europe Trading (Shenzhen) Company Ltd. had 10 min presentation about the newly developed 16+1 e-commerce platform. The company is the wholly owned subsidiary of Qianhai Central Eastern Europe Investment Development (Shenzhen) Company Ltd. In the context of the 16+1 cooperation, the company dedicates itself to promoting economic and trade cooperation between China and the CEE countries.

The members of the Consultative Board agreed that the Bulgarian side would provide in written form a protocol from the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Board.

### **Discussion of the Annual Activities of the Association for 2017**

Within the determined period (August 24, 2017), the Association did not receive proposals/ remarks from China and the CEE countries.

Within the conducted 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Board, it was decided the respective consultative board members would not vote on the written activities.

**Point 1:** Establishing of contacts and taking actions for conclusion of Memorandum of Cooperation with relevant institutions from China and CEEC.

The establishment of contacts and the partnership with relevant to APACCCEEC institutions from China and CEEC, shall make possible the synergy and cooperation in the field of investment, trade, tourism and others, which are crucial for the achievement of the aims of the Association for the Promotion of Agricultural Cooperation between China and the CEE Countries. Conclusion of Memorandums of Cooperation between APACCCEEC and different parties regarding the providing of information, contacts, projects and trade management support to potential investors and trade companies from China and to encourage them to invest and trade in the CEE countries and vice versa.



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After the Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of China and the CEE countries on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017, a memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Association and the Agricultural Trade Promotion Center (ATPC) by the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China.

**Point 2:** Master Plan for the establishment and the development of “16+1 Modern Agricultural Demonstration Park” in China and the CEE countries.

The main aim of the Project “16+1 Modern Agricultural Demonstration Park” is to transform and promote domestic and overseas advanced technologies and technological achievements, incubate and cultivate modern agricultural enterprises, boost industrialized operation of agriculture, establish concentration areas of talents of agricultural technologies, develop the technological innovation and to boost the trade with agricultural products between China and the CEE countries.

The high-efficiency modern agricultural demonstration park is a new development mode of Chinese agriculture, and plays a very important role in promoting agricultural development. The “16+1 Modern Agriculture Demonstration Park” is an aid Project on agricultural technology cooperation between China and the CEE countries. China is a developing country with the largest population in the world, but the area of farmland per capita in China is far lower than the world average level. As a result, food security plays an important role in national security.

The Chinese government issued the management approach of operation rights transfer for rural land contracting, which opens a new route for the development of the modern agriculture demonstration parks. In recent years, a lot of modern agriculture demonstration parks have been built in China. The modern agricultural demonstration park is a modern science and technology leading agricultural demonstration base which is based on modern science and technology, established in the requirements of local resource development and development of the leading industry, allocates production factors according to modern agriculture industrialized production and the operation system and manages scientifically.

In China national "Outline of Agricultural Science and Technology Development", it is clearly mentioned that, some agricultural science and technology parks shall be built nationwide, which conforms to the agriculture development trend in 21st century, and has strong driving effect and demonstration effect on the development of agriculture and rural economy of different regions.



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*\*The respective representatives from China and the CEE counties received the full text of the Master Plan “16+1 Modern Agricultural Demonstration Park” on a flash drive on the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Board of APACCCEEC, which was held on 24 August 2017 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.*

**Point 3:** Master Plan for the establishment and the development of “16+1 e-Commerce Logistic Hub”.

Following the trends in the e-Commerce trade with agricultural and other products in China, APACCCEEC adopted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Board, which was held on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 in Kunming, China, a resolution for voluntary development and launch of Project “16+1 e-Commerce Logistic Hub” in China and the CEE countries, adapted to each county specific needs and stage of agricultural development.

By providing large number of services, such as: Supply Chain Management, Logistic, Warehouse and Custom services and the implementation and development of the 16+1 e-Commerce B2B information platform for the integration of the B2B and B2C resources and G2B2B2C e-Commerce trade platform, the Project have the aim to promote win-win and healthy development of e-Commerce business among China and the CEE countries.

A 16+1 e-Commerce logistics hub is a place where a complete package of China-CEEC logistics services is readily available in order to serve market demand for international logistics and e-Commerce trade with agricultural and other products. Integrated services consist of major functions required for international trade, including the following 6 elements: (1) efficient port with container terminal, (2) storage (operation base for logistics industry), (3) transport network, (4) quality control, collection and distribution of goods (international logistics companies), (5) cross-border arrangements with direct link between General Administration of Customs of China and the respective country Customs Bureau and (6) e-Commerce platform.

These 6 elements of functions alone do not guarantee the success of an 16+1 e-Commerce logistics hub. It is obvious that the presence of a substantial volume of market demand is a necessary condition for any hub to succeed. In this regard, development of a “hub” must include effective market development as well.

In the first phase, namely the “Short-term” phase, the focus is on removing obstacles and preparing to attract a sizable share in the regional portion of the international transportation



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market, as well as the expansion and upgrading of infrastructure that is needed to accommodate a larger flow of agricultural and other goods, traded by e-Commerce.

In the second phase, namely the “Medium-term” phase, the focus will be on evolving Bulgaria as one of the regional distribution centres by developing the functions of supply and distribution depot for e-Commerce in the region of the Central and Eastern Europe concerning the trade with China and vice versa.

By 2020, an e-Commerce logistics system with perfect layout, optimised structure, powerful capability, efficient operation and quality service would be basically formed, with informatisation, standardisation and intensive development making significant progress. The innovation capability of e-Commerce logistics will be further enhanced with broad application of advanced logistics equipment and technology in the industry worldwide. Integrated operation and network management will receive further boost with collaborative development in transportation, warehousing and distribution in China and the rest of the world. With further opening up, e-Commerce logistics networks serving global trading and marketing will be gradually formed. The level of green development will be further enhanced and the recycling rate of packaging waste will be greatly improved. The competitiveness of e-Commerce logistics enterprises will be significantly strengthened, with a number of high-level enterprises which are competitive internationally having service networks covering domestic and foreign markets. e-Commerce logistics costs will be significantly lowered, efficiency will be improved and supply chain service capabilities will be greatly enhanced.

The Cross-border B2C e-Commerce has acquired rapid increase throughout the world recently. In 2014, the scale of cross-border e-Commerce had reached USD230 billion. This is expected to mount up to USD994 billion in the year of 2020 with an estimated annual increase rate of 27%, which covers 943million consumers totally across the world. The Chinese cross-border e-Commerce has reached USD100 billion in 2015, which calls for about 50million m<sup>2</sup> overseas warehouse while currently, only 5% market demand can be met. The Chinese government thus require partnership cooperation for at least 50,000m<sup>2</sup> overseas warehouse in every countries/region.

e-Commerce hubs should be established around the world in order to offer Chinese suppliers and overseas consumers more facilitation and convenience. e-Commerce hubs means a comprehensive order delivery operation solution package which combines service modules like warehousing, logistics, order management and product return/change, targeting at a more



effective and convenient delivery for overseas warehouse sellers and better shopping experience for overseas consumers.

*\*The respective representatives from China and the CEE counties received the full text of the Master Plan “16+1 e-Commerce Logistic Hub” on a flash drive on the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Board of APACCCEEC, which was held on 24 August 2017 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.*

**Point 4:** Deepening the cooperation between China and the CEE countries

**Point 4.1:** In reference with the official opening of an experimental office of the General Administration of Quality Supervision Inspection and Quarantine in Ningbo on June 8, 2017 for inspection, quality supervision and quarantine, APACCCEEC provides for the use of the countries from CEE the official Chinese version of the document “Guidelines on Inspection and Quarantine of Main Products from CEE”.

*\*The respective representatives from China and the CEE counties received the text on a flash drive on the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Board of APACCCEEC, which was held on 24 August 2017 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.*

**Point 4.2:** In reference with the promotion of import trade development, APACCCEEC provides for the use of the countries from CEE a “Document of the Yiwu Municipal People’s Government on Issuing and Distributing Ten Measures for the Promotion of Import Trade Development (Trial)”.

*\*The respective representatives from China and the CEE counties received the full text on a flash drive on the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Board of APACCCEEC, which was held on 24 August 2017 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.*

**Point 5:** Submission of maximum 2 projects from each country from CEE regarding the upcoming China-CEEC Match-Making Meeting in the framework of the 15<sup>th</sup> China International Agricultural Trade Fair (15<sup>th</sup> CATF) which will be held in September 2017, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture of People’s Republic of China.

*Official Website of the event: <http://www.chinaagtradefair.com/>*

**Deadline:** 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Board (24 August 2017)



During the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Board on 24 August 2017 none of the CEE countries submitted projects regarding the China-CEEC Match-Making Meeting in the framework of the 15<sup>th</sup> China International Agricultural Trade Fair (15<sup>th</sup> CATF).

**Point 6:** Discussion, adoption and organizing of important events related to the activities of the Association

**Point 6.1:** Lithuania would like to propose holding the 13<sup>th</sup> China-CEEC Agro-Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum in 2018 in Lithuania.

Lithuania firmly supports the agricultural cooperation under the China and Central and East European countries' framework (China and CEEC), which is driven by a growing practical demand from both sides, and sees a huge potential in strengthening the agri-food, trade and investment policy ties between China and CEEC. It has already brought win-win benefits to China and CEEC, proving that countries from different regions can embrace a new path in seeking cooperation and finding synergies between different initiatives.

Lithuania reaffirms their readiness to enhance existing cooperation and foster relations in new areas to benefit our citizens and boost prosperity.

During the Meeting of China - CEEC Ministers of Agriculture 2017 in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia on August 25, 2017, it was adopted the Brdo Joint Declaration. Following it, the ministers of China and the CEE countries support Lithuania to host the 13<sup>th</sup> China-CEEC Forum on Agro-Trade and Economic Cooperation, as well as the Meeting of the Consultative Board of the Association for Promotion of Agricultural Cooperation between China and CEECs in the spring of 2018.

**Point 6.2:** Discussion and adoption of date and venue of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Board of the Association for the Promotion of Agricultural Cooperation between China and the CEE Countries.

Bulgaria would like to propose the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Board of APACCCEEC to be held in Lithuania in 2018 together with the 13<sup>th</sup> China-CEEC Agro-Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum & International Fair.

During the Meeting of China - CEEC Ministers of Agriculture 2017 in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia on 25 August 2017, it was adopted the Brdo Joint Declaration. Following it, the ministers of China and the CEE countries support Lithuania to host the 13<sup>th</sup> China-CEEC



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Forum on Agro-Trade and Economic Cooperation, as well as the Meeting of the Consultative Board of the Association for Promotion of Agricultural Cooperation between China and CEECs in the spring of 2018.

**∨ Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Chairman Vasil Gelev declared the meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 17:00 PM



APAC  
BETWEEN CHINA AND CEEC

Adopted by the Consultative Board Members

on the 5<sup>th</sup> Consultative Board Meeting

on August 24, 2017