



EU-China Urbanisation Forum

《Transition Towards Sustainable Cities》

29 June 2015, Brussels

Pact of Co-responsibility

In order to limit climate warming, actors committed to cities and regions in China and Europe are jointly launching a co-responsibility pact in favour of the transition to sustainable societies.

Cities in Europe and China account for a large majority of the populations. They are also at the core of international supply chains. Conception and management of cities as well as lifestyles and consumption patterns of their inhabitants are the main factors in climate change. Present European and Chinese cities are not sustainable in the long term, neither socially nor ecologically.

Although the urbanisation process in Europe has been achieved and is still ongoing in China, Europe and China are on an equal footing when it comes to the need to undertake the difficult transition to sustainable cities and territories.

This transition is a comprehensive and multi-dimensional process, ranging from the transformation of mindsets and governance to technological and cultural developments. It implies the cooperation of a large number of stakeholders - local authorities, civilian organisations, public and private companies, investors, scientists and trainers, and the affirmation of their co-responsibility with regard to the transition.

It also calls for a radical transformation of global supply chains so that they themselves become sustainable.

Acknowledging their responsibilities and the urgency of innovative large scale initiatives, Chinese and European leaders of local authorities, civilian society, public and private companies, investors, scientists and trainers wanting to play an active role in a multi-stakeholder partnership in favour of sustainable cities and territories, got together on 29 June 2015 at the invitation of the European Commission, the European Regions Committee and the European Economic and Social Committee. They decided, by signing the Pact, to become the core of a comprehensive EU-China partnership for the transition towards ecologically and socially sustainable cities. They invite stakeholders involved in this transition to join them in signing in their turn.

The global objective is to **establish and implement for each city and territory of the partnership, a multi-player strategy aiming within the next 30 years to reach carbon-neutrality and socially sustain and benefit from strong social cohesion, according to a specific route for each city but whose total**



emissions of greenhouse gas will respect the inter-governmental objective of a maximum global warming of two degrees Celsius.

To achieve this, the parties to the partnership agree to pool their efforts and thoughts, especially on the following points:

1. Understanding of cities and territories and the establishment of territorial structures ensuring that understanding

Cities and territories today are ignorant of their own functioning, of the flow of matter and energy that enters, circulates, transforms and stands out, especially the hidden flows incorporated in the manufacturing and distribution of goods consumed. The partners are committed to supporting the creation of methods to understand the metabolism of cities and territories.

2. Sharing of experience and expertise

Knowledge of the experience of others and transmission of experience are essential to global progress. This involves the active participation of the signatories to a bilingual website, Chinese and English, bringing together these experiences and by an extensive young professionals exchange programme between the different stakeholders and between Chinese and European ones.

3. Building a common comprehensive understanding of the different dimensions of the transition process

Systemic transition calls for a shared vision of its different dimensions. The signatories to the Pact commit to making progress on each of them:

- *Global management of energy (including "grey" energy, incorporated in the consumption of goods and services) with aim of fixing the territorial quotas corresponding to progress towards carbon-neutral cities and regions, of defining mechanisms for measuring the quantities consumed by each stakeholder and each business sector, and of defining mechanisms for a fair repartition of these territorial quotas;*
- *A new vision of cities and territories considered as ecosystems, in place of the compartmentalised view that prevails today;*
- *An integration of modern technologies in the regulation and operation of "smart cities";*
- *Designing of governance regimes fit for the management of goods and services, especially those that are in limited quantities, in order to ensure both the efficient and fair management of resources;*
- *City planning and long-term development strategy able to preserve scarce space and natural resources and to implement effective and efficient public services;*
- *The mobilisation of all population and local creativity resources, particularly through youth education, development of academic programmes, the creation of priority programmes of interdisciplinary research geared towards transition;*
- *The establishment of local and external funding for the transition, with a particular emphasis on the mobilisation of local savings;*
- *Negotiating with companies in the production and distribution of goods and services in order to promote sustainable global supply chains with particular emphasis on: optimal use of local resources: renewable energy; circular economy; functional economy (service substitution to material goods); local currencies enabling a direct local link between supply and demand for goods and services; social and solidarity economy combining economic efficiency and social objectives; healthy and sustainable food supply chains, including limitations on waste.*



4. Inclusive and multi-level governance:

- *Governance involving all public and civilian organisations for the diagnosis, design and implementation of the strategy;*
- *Multi-level governance, recognising that none of the challenges of the transition can be faced at only one level and that it is essential both to define common guidelines for the strategy and to enforce these guidelines according to the specifics of each city, district and neighborhood;*
- *Comprehensive governance able to manage the relationships between various public services for the common good;*
- *Multi-stakeholder governance with clear co-responsibility for each of them;*
- *Inclusive governance, ensuring that the most disadvantaged social groups benefit from essential goods and services, and play an active role in the transition.*

5. The requests addressed to all States and the European Union

The signatories of the Pact acknowledge the prominent role of cities and territories in the design and implementation of the transition and their co-responsibility in that respect and assume this responsibility in signing the pact. In order for their efforts to be fully fruitful, however, they ask their governments and the European Union to take on their own responsibilities. They therefore address to the national and European public authorities the following proposals and requests:

- *The possibility for cities and territories to freely and globally manage territorial fossil energy quotas;*
- *A commitment to promoting sustainable global supply chains, including through the WTO and bilateral treaties of commerce and foreign investment protection;*
- *Promoting responsibility and co-responsibility, if possible by the adoption of a Universal Declaration of Human Responsibilities and by an evolution of international law aimed at punishing irresponsible behaviour;*
- *Promotion of multi-level governance, involving various levels from local to global governance in order to address the challenges of the transition towards responsible and sustainable societies.*