

## **PROTOCOL**

of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Chinese-Austrian Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (online), held in Beijing and Vienna on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022, implementing the “Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on Scientific and Technological Cooperation” concluded in Beijing on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1984.

Beijing and Vienna, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022

The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Chinese-Austrian Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (online) in accordance with Article 3 of the “Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on Scientific and Technological Cooperation” concluded in Beijing on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1984, took place in Beijing and Vienna on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022.

The Chinese delegation was headed by Ms. SHI Ling, Ministry of Science and Technology of the People’s Republic of China.

The Austrian delegation was headed by Mr. Heribert BUCHBAUER, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research of the Republic of Austria.

The set-up of the two delegations can be found in Annex 1.

The Joint Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Welcome and information about Science and Technology Policy in China and Austria
2. Review the Achievements of Sino Austrian Scientific and Technological Innovation Cooperation Projects
3. Discussion of next Joint Call
4. Summary and Date of next Meeting

#### **Ad 1 Welcome and Information about Science and Technology Policy in China and Austria**

Both sides exchanged information on current developments of their national research policies. The Joint Commission expressed its confidence that the implementation of the bilateral programme will further contribute to the development of beneficial links between scientific institutions and scientists of both countries and will enable them to use their scientific potential more efficiently and fruitfully in regional as well as multilateral projects.

Both sides reached an understanding to encourage their researchers to jointly participate in national, international and EU projects.

## **Ad 2 Review the Achievements of Sino Austrian Scientific and Technological Innovation Cooperation Projects**

According to the Protocol of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Chinese-Austrian Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, both sides identified the following jointly funded areas:

- Quantum Information Science
- Information and Communication Technology
- Intelligent Production
- Medicine and Health Research (including TCM)
- Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technology
- Food, Agriculture and Biotechnologies
- Environment, Smart Cities and Sustainable Urbanisation

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the above-mentioned cooperation and scientists from both sides request further bilateral cooperation.

### **Selection of projects for the period 2023-2024**

Both sides agreed to fund 15 Joint Cooperation Projects for the period 2023-2024 listed in Annex 3 of this protocol.

## **Ad 3 Discussion of next Joint Call**

In light of global challenges, especially the negative effects of climate change, both sides agreed that climate change and carbon neutrality should form areas of future joint collaboration. Therefore, both sides expressed interest in setting climate change and carbon neutrality as the flagship field.

The delegations agreed to provide funding for cooperation projects in the following fields for the years 2024-2026:

- Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and Sustainable Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment
- Medicine, Infectious Diseases, and Digital Solutions for health
- Biochemistry, Organic and Inorganic Chemistry

Due to the ongoing pandemic related travel restrictions, both sides agreed to issue the next call no earlier than autumn 2023.

The sides agreed to send the list of eligible proposals received on their side after the closure of the call and the results of national evaluations as soon as possible.

The Joint Commission adopted the Work Programme for the years 2023-2024. The Work Programme includes regulations about the forms and aspects of cooperation, general administrative regulations, the administration of the exchange of scientists and experts as well as financial regulations.

A copy of the Work Programme for the years 2023-2024 is attached as Annex 2 of this Protocol.

#### **Ad 4 Summary and Date of next Meeting**

Both sides exchanged ideas on science and technology policies and joint funding mechanism and expressed satisfaction.

Both sides agreed to hold an online information session to promote intergovernmental science and technology cooperation projects and to push people-to-people exchange when the pandemic is over. Both sides welcome Austrian scientists, researchers and scientific management personnel, like colleagues in BMBWF to participate in the Talented Young Scientist Program and the China-EU Science and Technology Management Personnel Exchange Program.

In addition to the China-Austria bilateral mechanism, both sides welcome scientists and researchers to participate in the China-EU joint funding mechanism.


Both sides agreed to hold the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Chinese-Austrian Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Cooperation in autumn 2024 in China.

#### **Adoption and effectiveness of the Protocol**

This Protocol will remain effective until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. It will remain effective beyond this date until a new Protocol becomes effective for a maximum period of another year.

Done in Beijing and Vienna on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022, in two English copies.

For the Chinese delegation



Ms. SHI Ling

Ministry of Science and Technology of  
the People's Republic of China

For the Austrian delegation



Mr. Heribert BUCHBAUER

Federal Ministry of Education, Science  
and Research of the Republic of Austria