

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON
CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF EMPLOYMENT,
LABOUR, SOCIAL DIALOGUE AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
BETWEEN
THE FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE
EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE
THE FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE
SOCIAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTIONS
OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
AND
THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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The Federal Public Service Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue
The Federal Public Service Social Security and Public Social Security Institutions
of the Kingdom of Belgium

and

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security
of the People's Republic of China

(hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"),

Welcoming the development of their bilateral relations,

Affirming their political will to give more dynamics and content to their bilateral relations as a whole,

Considering the objectives of the International Labour Organisation of which the Parties have become members,

Noting the exchanges and the co-operation activities in the field of employment, labour, social dialogue and social affairs that have already taken place between the Parties,

Reaffirming the commitment of the Parties to develop the content of their bilateral agenda and to share the knowledge and experience gained in the fields related to employment, labour, social dialogue and social affairs,

Convinced that co-operation between the Parties in the abovementioned matters will serve their mutual interests and contribute to strengthening the relations of friendship between the two countries,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

The Parties shall carry out mutually agreed co-operation activities, more particularly in the following fields:

- a) employment policy and social dialogue;
- b) improvement of working conditions;
- c) social security;
- d) globalisation and its impact on employment, the working environment, industrial relations and governance.

ARTICLE 2

Co-operation between the Parties shall more particularly be by means of:

- a) exchanges of information and expertise in the fields covered by the Memorandum;
- b) reciprocal visits of experts and delegations;
- c) joint organisation of seminars, workshops and meetings for experts, regulatory authorities and other persons concerned;
- d) consultations within the framework of multilateral discussions on employment, labour and social security issues.

ARTICLE 3

With a view to guaranteeing the implementation of this Memorandum, to establishing a co-operation programme to be carried out within a specified period and to coordinating the co-operation activities referred to in this Memorandum, each Party shall appoint a co-ordinator within the six months following the entry into force of this Memorandum. The Belgian co-ordinator shall be appointed after consultations with all Belgian federal and federated entities with competence in the fields covered by Article 1.

As a rule, co-ordinators shall meet on a regular basis, every two years, in turn in the Kingdom of Belgium and in the People's Republic of China. Unless agreed otherwise, international travel costs resulting from participation in meetings shall be borne by the sending Party while the host Party shall assume, on a basis of reciprocity, the expenses incurred locally by the participants.

The co-operation activities referred to in this Memorandum shall depend on the budgets available and shall be governed by the laws and regulations applicable in each country. Any specific activity or project launched by mutual agreement may, if necessary, be dealt with in a separate agreement.

Each of the Parties shall seek to secure the funds required to support co-operation activities and shall undertake the co-ordination of the departments responsible for the implementation of this Memorandum.

ARTICLE 5

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect in any way the rights and obligations of the Parties resulting from any international legal instrument.

ARTICLE 6

This Memorandum shall enter into force thirty days after the date of signature and shall remain in force for a period of five years.

Unless notice of termination is given by either Party to the other Party three months before the expiry of its period of validity, it shall be automatically extended each time for a further period of five years.

The expiry of this Memorandum shall not affect the validity of arrangements already existing under this Memorandum.

DONE in duplicate at *Beijing*, on the *6th* of June 2005, in French, Chinese, Dutch and English languages, each version being equally authentic. In case of a divergence of interpretation the English text shall prevail.

For the Federal Public Service
Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue
of the Kingdom of Belgium :



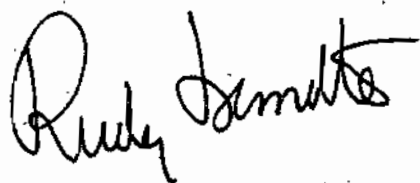
Mrs. Freya VAN DEN BOSSCHE,
Minister of Employment

For the Ministry of Labour
and Social Security
of The People's Republic of China :



Mr. Silin ZHENG,
Minister of Labour and Social Security

For the Federal Public Service
Social Security and Public Social Security
Institutions
of the Kingdom of Belgium :

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rudy Demotte". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mr. Rudy DEMOTTE,
Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health