

EU-China Urbanisation Forum

《Transition Towards Sustainable Cities》

29 June 2015, Brussels

The 《Transition Towards Sustainable Cities》 sub-forum, aiming to highlight the most innovative and ambitious multi-stakeholder partnerships forged in Europe and China, was organised by the China Europa Forum on 29 June 2015 in Brussels under the patronage of the DG Energy and the Committee of the Regions of the European Commission.



“A transition towards sustainability has emerged and there are four dimensions in this new vision: First, a systemic approach beyond sector policies; second, long-term multi-stakeholder partnerships; third, combining sustainable cities and sustainable supply chains; and fourth, multi-level governance - that is, the capacity to organise cooperation between the various levels from state to local,” Pierre Calame, President of the China Europa Forum Foundation, said.

In the first part of the sub-forum, the richness, diversity, depth of views and convergence of contributions illustrated a variety of partnerships between civilian actors, politicians, economic and financial players, universities, research centres and trainers, and have shown that such a strategy cannot be defined from above. It must unite the creativity and initiatives of all, the cultural resources of the community as well as its financial and technological resources. In the second part we looked at what might be a pact of co-responsibility, to help understand what could be the roadmap and the commitment to carbon-neutral cities combining the efforts of the different stakeholders. At the end of the sessions an awards ceremony celebrated the Chinese champions in serving the transition and encouraged new vocations.

We expect the following contents to assist mutual understanding and mutual learning on the path of transition towards sustainable societies.

Welcome speeches

- Boris Essender, Member of the Cabinet of the Secretary-General, Committee of the Regions, EU

“Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to open this conference on behalf of Mr Jiří Buriánek, Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions, and our institution for the commitments you are trying to achieve, the international recognition of the concept of multi-level governance by promoting it to such an extent around the globe. At the same time I would like to congratulate you on your fostering of cooperation in China and the European Union to address at city-level important challenges relating to climate change and environmental issues among other things.



The members of the Committee of the Regions are regional local representatives directly elected by fellow citizens who gather at the Committee to have their say on the development of new legislation that impacts on regions and cities in Europe. The global issues are at the core of our business which is why we are also keen on promoting urbanisation partnerships. The COR has been actively involved in and supported the EU-CHINA Urbanisation Partnership since its inception in 2012 in order to promote sustainable urban development and find solutions to common problems.

I would like to say that European cities and regions have supported this partnership very strongly. I would also underline that they are crucial actors in joining projects such as city pairings, infrastructure development and strategic ventures between EU and Chinese stakeholders.

As you may know the COR has been a keen supporter of another EU initiative, the Covenant of Mayors, since its birth in 2008. It has given to the Covenant its full institutional support, promoting the initiative among its members, co-organising events in its office and providing political support through both the COR formal accommodation and contacts with other EU institutions. A large number of our members are actually signatories to this Covenant of Mayors.

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to highlight the European model of the Covenant of Mayors as a unique example of a bottom-up initiative which really works. It is one of a kind among European success stories. Let's further explore whether this model has also something to offer to all Chinese partners. Multi-level governance is proving its worth in this model and works hand in hand with the need for more autonomy for the mayors in the session.

You may well be aware that the COR has been a jury member for all the European Green Capital Awards presented since the beginning of the Award. Just last week, the German city of Essen won this award for 2017. Our committee very much appreciates the fact that the European Green Capital recognised achievements and commitments across the full range of environment issues such as waste, water, noise, air and biodiversity. The COR also appreciates the fact that this year the European Green Leaf has been awarded for the first time. We have called for this award to go to smaller cities, and the Spanish city of Mollet del Vallès and the Portuguese city of Torres Vedras are the winners of the inaugural 2015 European Green Leaf. **This new European**

competition recognises cities' commitments to better environmental outcomes with a particular focus on efforts that generate green growth and news jobs.

The urban agenda is a priority for the coming Dutch Presidency of the Council of the European Union which will be in the first semester of 2016 and which strives for the adoption of an Amsterdam declaration establishing the EU urban agenda, its priority and working methods, to be signed on 13 May 2016. In order to prepare the Declaration the Dutch ministry will present a very clear roadmap. According to this roadmap the COR will contribute to this document with the particular opinions that will be adopted in the coming months. **Since the publication of a white paper on multi-level governance in COR and more recently the adoption of the charters of multi-level governance in April 2014, the Committee has emphasised the importance of establishing a new model of governance in Europe. It should be based not only on reinforced cooperation at different levels of governance (international, national, regional or local) but also on operational partnerships between all relevant stakeholders.** This model should fully recognise each party's respective competencies and responsibilities. **Multi-level governance applies to all examples and great initiatives in support of the transition towards sustainable cities. As such it is very much in line with the ideas put forward by the Pact of long-term Co-responsibility which can only be supported in full by the COR.** With just five months to go before the COP21 conference in Paris this December, **cities and regions in Europe and across the world are stepping up their efforts and joining forces through initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors or the awards that I mentioned.**

I think we need to step up our efforts and join forces in the on-going International Climate negotiations. As stated above, regions and cities play a responsible role here and I can only confirm our willingness to implement these plans.

To conclude, I am convinced you will have a fruitful discussion on the burning issue of today and propose solutions for tomorrow. I hope that the COR can serve as a useful instrument for future exchanges, cooperation, promotion and inter-mediation in regions and cities and I can assure you that the Committee is a bridge between Europe and its citizens who spread the message from this forum to the other institutions, its member, cities, regions and the citizens."

➤ **Jin Dejun, Former Chief Engineer of the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (MOHURD); Director of the China International Urbanisation Development Strategy Research Committee (CIUDSRC)**
(Extracts)



"Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to come to Brussels to participate in the "Transition towards Sustainable Cities" sub-forum held by the China-Europa Forum within the framework of the Third EU-China Urbanisation Forum.

The China International Urbanisation Development Strategy Research Committee

(CIUDSRC) is the first civilian organisation focused on Chinese urbanisation research. Under the guidance of the Science and Technology Commission of the Chinese Ministry of Housing and the Urban-Rural Development and Technology Experts Advisory Committee of the Chinese Ministry of Land and Resources, the CIUDSRC has established a think-tank platform on urbanisation development strategy research, industry research, urban planning and social construction research through integrated official, industry, education, research institution and media resources.

It is eight years since the CIUDSRC launched the Chinese Urbanization Report, presenting systematic studies on the rules of the Chinese urbanisation process and its evolution from 1949, and published for the first time the Chinese urbanisation rate based on the proportion of the non-agricultural population to the total population. We have also started research on the Chinese urbanisation evaluation system by including migrant citizenship, urban-rural coordination, ecological civilisation and economic growth as four dimensions of building-related indicators, and giving full consideration to the particular base and mode of Chinese city development.

Through on-going urbanisation case studies, the CIUDSRC created a database which focuses on industrial transformation, city-industry integration and local urbanisation during the Chinese urbanisation process. We also concentrated on cases relating to culture and education, environmental protection, harmless disposal of waste and sewage in urban and rural areas, and promoting social development through social welfare under the guidance of the government and rural improvement. So far we have collected more than 50 typical cases, such as two regions jointly building in Dezhou City of Shandong Province; a case of city-industry integration in Changsha City of Hunan Province; promoting social construction in Wuxi County, Chongqing City; comprehensive infrastructure design and construction in Wuhan City of Hubei Province; and community governance in Shunde District, Foshan City, Guangdong Province.

The CIUDSRC insists on independent and professional studies. With two platforms for the Chinese Urbanisation International Summit and the Chinese Urbanisation Forum, we are continually carrying out research on typical Chinese urbanisation cases, contribution figures, influential institutions and outstanding migrant workers. Through our Media Professional Board, Urbanisation Magazine, CIUDSRC's website and the Wechat platform, we are working to promote international exchange concerning urbanisation theories and experiences."

➤ **Alexander GRAF VON SCHWERIN, Member of the EESC, President of the EU-China Contact group**

" (...) It is a great pleasure for me to open this sub-forum together with my colleagues from China and the members of the cabinet of the Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions with whom I share not only the fact that our offices are in the same building but most importantly the fact that we both share a long-term interest in China. Today is a very special day. First, I am honoured to speak at the opening of the EU-China Urbanisation Forum organised on the same day as the European Union and China 17th



Bilateral Summit, which is particularly dedicated to the challenge of sustainable development.

I am also grateful to the organisers for picking a concrete topic for EU and Chinese civilian society: transition towards sustainable cities. **In my view the long-term rules and structural changes we have been living in in Europe and China for the last 60 years have been detrimental to the rural areas. Urban sprawl and mismanagement of land resources together with pollution are unfortunately common to Europe and China. As a member of the EU-China civilian society roundtable, I would like to reaffirm the long-term interest of the European Economic and Social Committee on China since 2007. We have been working hard for the development of trusting cooperation with China through the roundtable and cooperation mechanisms such as the sustainable urbanisation partnership.**

Allow me to manage as an example of our strong commitment, a document presented by the EESC at the 11th China-EU roundtable in Hangzhou in 2012. This piece of work entitled “Controlling urbanisation and challenge for sustainable development” is still relevant. We not only picture cities as sustainable development key players but reflect new urbanisation tools which integrate planning and technical standards in particular on transport and energy, and systematic public consumption.

Before closing I would like to refer to two important challenges that need to be addressed. The first challenge is that **China and Europe need a concerted approach in order to establish an ambitious post-2050 framework to eradicate global poverty, reduce inequality and enable a new model for sustainable development at global level which includes urban development.** The second is that **in the context of trade negotiations and the attraction exerted by China on foreign direct investments, EU-China bilateral investment should include sustainable development criteria.** This concerns issues such as land grabbing, which has impact on urbanisation.

We believe that civilian society should be monitoring this investment agreement. I hope that your work today is able to tackle this issue among others.”

➤ **LEI Zhiqiang, Deputy Mayor of Zhen Jiang City, in charge of urban construction, Jiangsu Province, China**



Integrating the Low-Carbon City with Ecological Progress

“Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am from Zhenjiang City - a charming and beautiful city in China’s Yangtze River Delta Region. My city has more than 3,000 years of history, and more than three million people are living there.

As one of the second group of China’s low-carbon experimental cities and one of the first group of China’s ecological progress demonstration zones, my city of Zhenjiang has always insisted on low-carbon development and deemed environmental protection our priority. Through this opportunity, I would like to share some of Zhenjiang’s experiences with you.

1. Promoting a low-carbon lifestyle

During our low-carbon development, we make it very clear that we will achieve a carbon emission peak around 2020 by optimising industrial and energy structures. This deadline is 20 years earlier than the benchmark scenario. Our city is now implementing nine principles to guide carbon reduction, including optimising the functional areas for development, encouraging the development of low-carbon industries, promoting low-carbon production, building carbon sinks, developing low-carbon buildings, using low-carbon energies, fostering capacity for low-carbon development and promoting a low-carbon lifestyle. These principles are applied in our city's low-carbon development through specific projects. For example, the city provides 12,000 public bicycles for citizens to use, and riding public bicycles has now become a fashion in the city. Some 350 public buses are now using clean energy, 157 coaches are using liquefied natural gas, and all taxis in the city are using compressed natural gas. The area of new afforestation has reached 7,000 hectares, and that of green buildings 1.4 million square metres. We are using the technologies of cloud computing and Internet-of-Things to develop the first management platform for low-carbon city development in China. We conduct real-time supervision and management of 48 major carbon-emission companies whose emission volumes exceed 25,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. And we've assigned reduction goals to each district, each department and the major emission companies. If they fail to meet the reduction goals, they will face harsh punishment.

2. Emphasising environmental protection

The urban area of Zhenjiang lies along the Yangtze River, the "mother river" we are committed to protecting. Since the implementation of the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015), we have shut down 347 chemical companies and helped 161 companies to phase out out-dated production. We carry out vigorous technical reforms and promote the application of energy-efficient, safer, environmentally friendly, and highly efficiency techniques. In 2014 we invested 35.3 billion Yuan in industrial technical reform, up 34% on the previous year. "Green and Recycle" technical reform has covered all the economic and technological development zones above provincial level. We have improved the environment in East and Southwest Zhenjiang, a total area of 200 square kilometres. We have also treated water quality in our city, including one lake and nine rivers. We control water pollution at source, dredge the waters, improve the surrounding conditions, divert running waters, restore ecological environments, and landscape the areas beside the waters. The city has fully initiated a project to link different waters and a market mechanism for water management and protection has been normalised. The rivers in the city are now becoming cleaner and cleaner, and you will no longer find any black or odorous river. With respect to air quality, we have carried out 117 projects to treat air pollution. Every year 66.1% of the days have good air quality, and the concentration of PM2.5 has decreased by 6.25% so far. According to the ranking of the most liveable cities in China issued by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Zhenjiang ranks ninth. The green environment has become Zhenjiang's most competitive advantage for development.

3. Insisting on ecological progress

Through deepening reform, we have formulated Six Major Mechanisms to promote ecological progress. These

are a mechanism to integrate rural and urban development; a mechanism to promote green and low-carbon industrial development; a mechanism emphasising paid use of resources and ecological compensation; a mechanism to control the overall consumption of resources and impact on the environment; an investment and financing mechanism for ecological development; and a mechanism for environmental monitoring and risk prevention. We are exploring a replicable “Zhenjiang Experience” from the perspective of city governance. Our experience integrates multiple factors such as land use, environment, resources, industrial development, energy saving, emission and carbon reduction, and highlights the ability of application. We have successfully created the first “Eco-cloud” in China, which enriches the Zhenjiang Experience with new technology.

Ladies and gentlemen, we expect to learn more from the experiences concerning low-carbon and ecological development from other cities in the world. We believe, through our cooperation and joint efforts, we will build more sustainable cities for future generations!”

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Part I - Presentation of Outstanding European, Chinese or Euro-Chinese Partnerships

➤ **Evelyne Huytebroeck, Member of the Brussels Parliament, former Minister of Environment, Energy and Renovation of the city 2004–2014**

The employment -environment alliance for sustainable construction

“ (...) My challenge from the beginning was for Brussels to become a sustainable city. I say become because it was absolutely not the case when I arrived in 2004. We have to be exemplary because we are the biggest city in Belgium and its capital, as well as being the capital of Europe and the seat of many international delegations and associations plus enterprises and agencies.

It is impossible to obtain results and realise the transition only through ambitious projects, with beautiful ideas and good will. You need to convince your political colleagues in government to listen to the association and committees, to work with your administration and to build your project with citizens, local authorities (Brussels has 19 districts), businesses, etc.

Perhaps it takes more time, but finally you gain time and credibility because everybody is convinced by the changes you propose. From all of my initiatives I present one famous example now providing concrete results:

- **The Employment -Environment Alliance Sustainable Construction**

In Brussels building are responsible for 70% of greenhouse gas emissions and are the largest potential source of energy savings. They are therefore of strategic importance in the transition to a carbon-free society. Thus the first focus is on the sustainable construction sector.

We calculate that by 2020, 70,000 new homes will be needed in response to the demographic boom in Brussels



and in 2015 we ordered that all new buildings will need to meet passive standards, zero energy consumption. The construction sector is a major business sector (25,000 workers in Brussels), so sustainable construction with new trades (insulation, renewable energy, heating and ventilation) promises to provide work for young people. In 2009 we initiated Employment-Environment Alliance Sustainable Construction.

Through this programme we are aiming to improve the standard of insulation in all homes, reduce energy bills and create long-term jobs. Good for the planet, the budget and the economy.

To achieve this we encourage companies in the construction sector to move to using sustainable construction methods to respond to the demand stimulated by energy and environmental policies such as grants and subsidies.

We brought together all regional players who could help to improve the range of services on offer in sustainable construction and who can identify the main obstacles and the actions for overcoming them. They identified 44 actions.

More than 110 public and private sector participants were involved in the process. We organised eight workshops.

The goals are: 80,000 training hours and 2,500 new jobs in five years.

This alliance approach is completely innovative in terms of political decision-making. It is a bottom-up approach which gives players the opportunity to participate more actively in defining the actions that the political world will support.

The players are the administration, public interest bodies, professional federations, sector representatives and social partners plus three different ministers (economy, energy and renovation).

Some examples of actions:

1. Understand the market and the techniques involved
2. Encourage companies to train their workers
3. Stimulate research and innovation
4. Gain recognition from the market, introduce performance criteria.

In conclusion it's good to stimulate demand for sustainable construction but it is better to assist the different actors acquire an adequate command of sustainable construction and to create jobs. It is a win-win process that I encourage you to prove."

➤ **Richard Elelman, Head of Public Administration Projects at the Fundacion CTM Centre Tecnològic (Barcelona)**

We can only discuss global issues when the local citizen is involved



"(...) As a representative of the Spanish research and development sector and as a former mayor of a Spanish city, it is my pleasure to be speaking here today about Energy Cities. An organization with which I have had a

long-term collaboration for many years, since 2007 when I was an active politician in Spain, Energy Cities is the perfect example of what has been happening in Europe over the last 25 years. Energy Cities was created 25 years ago and now represents more than a thousand cities, a thousand municipalities in Europe, and therefore has a moral and a practical power when one is looking to establish what a sustainable city really is.

I am so bored with and so tired of going to conferences where people talk about concepts they have never actually applied, and where year after year, on different subjects whether energy, water, public transport, ICT, or waste, it is very difficult to see practical demonstrable examples of what is happening. Energy Cities, on whose behalf I am very pleased to talk today, is an example of something which has shown practical results due to collaboration between cities due to the capacity to include not only the public sector but also the academic sector, the business sector, citizens and environmental pressure groups in order to communicate so as to create a long term vision.

For the majority of world citizens in 2015 this long-term vision is something which does not worry them because half of them are thinking, “Well I am not going to be here anyway so why do I care?” We have to create that consciousness among the public. And Energy Cities has been working tirelessly with projects such as Imagine to create that consciousness, to create a public consciousness based on a long-term vision, based on a clear structure of governments with a bottom-up approach where citizen engagement becomes the most important thing.

If there is public awareness, if citizen themselves are conscious of the essential issues which our world faces, then we can guaranty consensus. If we have consensus then we have political continuity and we can therefore create structures where local solutions can really address global issues. Today we have representatives from both Europe and China so I think **it is essential that we ask everyone present to be aware of the fact that we can discuss global issues only when the local citizen is involved. Not just in Europe, not just in the Middle East, not just in the United States but also most certainly in countries such as China which has such a strong influence on what will be the sustainability of the world in the next 30 years.**

Therefore I would like to publicly congratulate Energy Cities for what they have done with projects such as Imagine where that local consciousness is being created and where we are now going into the second stage: We are looking to develop models whereby research and investigation together with industry, together with public administration, but following the lead of the citizens, actually do work together and produce results. I cannot go into details but I would ask you to contact Energy Cities or myself and please let us create these dynamics in countries such as China because the most important thing of all, and we have learnt this through experience, is the knowledge-sharing between cities. We all have something to learn from each other and that way we can put it into a practical application.”

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➤ **Li Fengling, Vice Director of the China International Urbanisation Development Strategy Research Committee (CIUDSRC); Professor of Tsinghua University**

"Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to emphasise that urbanisation development must take into account its individuality, the characteristics of the times and the sustainability of urban development.

After more than 30 years of reform and opening-up, China's economy and society have realised remarkable changes. Due to historical reasons and natural resource endowment China is still a big agricultural country, per capita income is still very low, the wealth and urban-rural gap still great, and regional development remains very uneven. China's urbanisation process will therefore be unbalanced and gradual with the process of migrant farmers moving into the city difficult. I think we should pay equal attention to both urban development and rural improvement, because they are complementary to each other. City civilisation construction is much more arduous and important than city material construction. Relative to European urbanisation, all the above problems are Chinese urban characteristics which should not be neglected, otherwise they will restrict Chinese urbanisation.

In the global internet era where the world is focusing on sustainable energy utilisation, facing climate change and air pollution, actively coordinating and taking joint action, "Internet +" becomes a consensus for China, Europe and even global development. The Chinese Government is forming an "Energy Internet +" action plan and development strategy, including relevant policies and standards. Therefore, based on renewable energy, clean energy and distributed energy, the internet engineering of smart energy will become an important connotation of urban development. Focusing on low-carbon development and green development will become a common choice and characteristic of Chinese and European urbanisation. European countries such as Germany have already gathered some successful experiences from which Chinese urbanisation can learn more in its practices.

Chinese traditional medicine focuses on human body system engineering. In the science of Chinese traditional medicine "JING-QI-SHEN" are three elements in the human body. Urban construction is more complex than the human body system. I think that the city's "JING" is the hardware of a city, it is the quality of urban functions and urban construction. The city's "QI" refers to the power of the city's economic capacity and development - different cities may have different economic structure and economic growth but cannot make ends meet and need to leave room for development. The city's "SHEN" is the city's spirit and culture, the accumulation of history and heritage. More importantly it is the soft power of sustainable development. The trinity of "JING-QI-SHEN" provides the key points of urbanisation development.

In conclusion, urbanisation is large topic and complex problem for China. Following the Chinese urbanisation trend, the China International Urbanisation Development Strategy Research Committee (CIUDSRC) is preparing to establish the Chinese Urbanisation Research Institute which will be a professional think-tank and technology body to promote China's urbanisation together with 16 professional boards in the CIUDSRC."



➤ **Wolfgang Teubner, European coordinator of the ICLEI network**

“Transformation needs partnership”

“It is an honour and a pleasure for me to address this important partnership forum between Europe and our friends and partners in China.

ICLEI is a global network of local governments engaged in transforming cities towards sustainable development for 25 years now. I think one of the important reasons we need multi-level governance and stakeholder involvement and partnership is because, besides the technical transition and the technological transition we have to undergo, sustainable development is by enlargement also a major cultural transition of our societies and our urban areas.

We are currently at a crucial point for multi-level governance. In a few month we will see climate negotiations coming to another point where crucial decisions will have to be made and will be made.

What we have seen until now is a much higher recognition of the local and sub-national governmental levels in these negotiations and the role they play for achieving major progress in climate protection and adaptation to climate change. I think this crucial moment also allows us to see that multi-level governance is really working. Second, in September the agreement of global sustainable development calls will take place and there we will most likely see a specific call on urban areas. This is also important and also shows that we are seeing some agreement on the importance of the local level and also support from the multi- level government side.

I would like to point out that if we look at multi-stakeholder cooperation we can observe the importance of technological development and innovation, and cooperation with the private sector. We can also see a current-ly on-going standardisation movement for agreeing standards for sustainable communities and cities. This is also an important sign that we are reaching a common agreement about the direction in which we want to go. If we all confirm that we are engaged in long-term processes of transition and transformation, I think it is also important to agree on where we want to transform.

Then of course it is important to go back, and that is why the local level is important, in order to see how it translates into our specific local and cultural contexts in the different countries, cities and places, in respect of cultural heritage and tradition too.



➤ **LUO Jianhua, Secretary-General, China Environment Chamber of Commerce**

China’s Challenges and Fight on Environmental Problems



“I will talk with you about some aspects of how serious the environmental problem is in China.

First, China is the largest emission polluter in the world. Its emission of sulphur dioxide is up to 26% of global emissions, the emission of nitric oxide is 28% of global emissions and the emission of carbon dioxide is even bigger. The Chinese environment deteriorates badly due to the huge amount of emissions.

In 2013 the Chinese Government began to monitor the PM 2.5 and only three cities – Haikou, Zhoushan and Lhasa met the standards – close to the borderline. According to the standards set by the World Health Organisation, the concentration should be no higher than 0.035mg./ m³ which means 70 Chinese cities were substandard. Would the air quality be harmful to humans? This is what concerns the public most.

I'd like to share some of our latest research results with you. According to statistics from Beijing, the morbidity rate of lung cancer has increase 50% from 2001 to 2012. Other research indicates that in winter cities to the north of Huaihe River use more coal for heating, so that air pollution is much worse than cities in the region to the south. This leads to northern city life expectancy being 5.5 years shorter than that of the southern cities. China's environmental problems are at an urgent critical point. Our pollution levels have been no less than past levels in London, Los Angeles and some Japanese cities. We followed in the footsteps of Western countries on the road of industrialisation, and the environment is the biggest challenge facing China.

Second, how do we deal with it? The China Central Bank and the National Development and Reform Commission are preparing to create the national eco-bank and the national environmental fund in order to stimulate pollution abatement by economic leverage. Second, energy efficiency and structure need to be largely adjusted. Nowadays utilisation of coal in China has reached 4.2 billion tons, accounting for more than 50% of world use. Due to the lack of alternative energy sources China cannot meet its energy demands. In this circumstance, clean technology for coal is crucial. Finally, reforming the governance model, such as the PPP model, should be promoted. We recommend third-party management to address industrial pollution. What is third-party governance? In the past industrial enterprises managed their own pollution. Now they can hire an environmental protection company to do it. By these methods and new measures, China could reach the environmental turning point in 10 or 15 years.

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➤ **Özgür Oener, President of Urban Affairs Committee, Housing Europe**

Housing and housing policies are at the base of the creation of a society where people come together at a local place

“ (...) Housing Europe is the European federation of public cooperative and social housing associations and companies. Established in 1998, it is a network of 42 national and regional federations which combines more

than 43,000 public social and cooperative housing providers in 22 countries. Together they manage over 26 billion homes, about 11% of the existing dwellings in the EU. That means that almost a sixth of the European population is housed by our members. The vision of Housing Europe is a Europe which provides access to decent and affordable housing for all communities which are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and where everyone is enabled to reach their full potential.



I will give you some challenges that we are facing within the housing sector. In some countries housing protection is not keeping up with demographic trends such as, for instance, the UK, Sweden, The Netherlands and Luxembourg. New social housing production decreased between 2009 and 2012, but the number of households on waiting lists is still increasing due to increased migration trends, asylum seekers, labour migrants, aging of the population and, of course, fuel poverty. According to European Commission figures between 50 and 125 million Europeans are unable to afford thermal comfort. This is clearly linked to energy performance.

One of the consequences of high housing costs in some attractive urban areas is spatial segregation of deprived neighbourhoods. Housing policy indeed has a strong impact on cities. Provision of affordable housing has an impact on economic growth, social protection and environmental performance. Based on studies our members are conducting, €1 spent in the housing sector leads to up to €7 or €8 further investment in energy refurbishment or simply maintenance of the building.

Social cooperative and public housing providers are looking at ways to promote their role in a wider society: that is responsible housing. At the European level Housing Europe has this year finished a project with tenancy unions and other stakeholders on principles of European responsible housing. The choices for that housing is not simply housing people somewhere and giving them a place to sleep and that's all - housing and housing policies are, of course, at the base of the creation of a society where people come together locally.

What we expect from European policy is what our vision of the European model of a city is. Europeans share the same kind of view on the ideal city: **a compact city where all functions, services, homes, hospitals, schools and public transport are easily accessible and affordable; a city with low air pollution, many green spaces and sports facilities; but also a safe city where relationships between people are based on mutual respect; a city which does not foster spatial and social segregation, and benefits from mixed neighbourhoods.** Provision of good quality, accessible, affordable and well located housing is key to this vision, but urban policy and particularly housing policies are highly complex since their implementation requires the contributions of a large number of actors such as planners, financing bodies, housing operators, associations, residents and so on. Cooperation is key and the EU can help in providing funding and incentives.

I would like to add that in 2012 we had the pleasure of being invited by the Chinese development research foundation for a meeting and conferences in order to share experiences about what we are doing at the European level and what China is doing and what kind of troubles it is facing. I was very much impressed when

I saw how China is trying to tackle reality, trying to tackle the problems they are facing. And when I heard the population figures, the figures for migrant workers, I thought then that, in comparison with China, our problems look sometimes very small. I am really impressed with how China started, many years ago, a policy on responsible housing, a policy on providing people with housing and I am also impressed by the way it is looking for examples. ”

➤ **ZHU Ruihong, Associate Researcher of the Zhen Jiang City Construction Industry Group (ZJCCIG)**



“(…) I come from Zhenjiang, Jiangsu province, and am engaging in conservation of historical and cultural streets. Besides research I also carry out the practical repair and restoration works, which have touched me profoundly.

Xijingdu, an historic and cultural street in Zhenjiang city, covers a square kilometre including 500,000 square metres of residential zone. In Xijingdu, there are the British Concession returned to China during the regime of the Republic of China and historic and cultural street blocks which were removed and transformed to industrial premises and public buildings such as hospitals during the industrialisation movement from the

1950s to 1960s. In addition to ancient architectures built hundreds of years ago, the historic and cultural street is located along the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River. While protecting the street zone, we have formed a continuous and authentic idea based on the concept of sustainable development. This is mainly reflected in:

1. After the deep and comprehensive research, we found that Xijingdu, which is dated back to the 7th century and has a 1400-year history so far, inheriting our architectural culture, religious culture and other historical culture relevant to the street, is a significant imprint of our city.
2. In the long history of development, our city has conserved residential buildings of Jiangnan characteristics, some concession buildings inherited in the Second Opium War, as the British Concession became museum after 1949, and ancient foreign banks buildings. These Western architectures are an historic symbol and also our heritage. After the industrialisation movement of the 1950s and 1960s, there are three plants left: a printer, an automobile fitting factory and an insecticide factory. The construction area of these plants is 20,000 square metres. They reflect the history of industrial development in Zhenjiang and are the treasures of our city. We followed the principle of authenticity in the restoration, used the original construction materials and recycled the old materials for restoration.
3. We have made a systematic principle of protection measures so that our historical and cultural streets can be preserved for good.”

➤ Peter Ramsden, Pole Manager (in England), URBACT Expert

Innovating in integrated approaches to sustainable development

“ (...) URBACT is the smallest of the European cooperation and exchange networks. It is a network made up of cities, financed by the European Union and helps cities learn from each other about challenging policy fields. Not all are about low-carbon, many are about other issues such as social inclusion. For example, we have a project on inclusion of Roma people for example, or urban regeneration - the range of projects is vast. The map here shows 500 cities which URBACT worked with intensely over the last



programme period of seven years. That was in 50 different networks and a typical network would last three years.



We have been trying to innovate in the way the integrated approach is used in sustainable development. We draw on a very wide range of expertise both from within communities and from outside. I think an important point for municipalities to understand is that most of the expertise is not inside their own organisation. Therefore a stakeholder approach is absolutely essential. And for us as well, the user, the citizen, the resident and sometimes the business are very important stakeholders. Without these we have no ownership, no crowd behind the new policies we are trying to develop in cities.

You all know the challenges, and just to show that Europe is not always so different from China we have an example. This is of an Irish ghost town where the development industry got ahead of the market, built things which had no sustainability, no future, and many of these are being demolished, not only in Ireland but in at least half a dozen European countries. Of course, because of the crisis, it has actually become worse. In some ways it is easier because people recognise there is a challenge and they have to face it, but in other ways it is harder because we have greater needs and fewer resources.

We work particularly around three notions of integration. The first is **horizontal integration** which is very much aimed at the local level; how to bring together all the other actors. The second is **vertical integration**: trying to get alignment up through the supply chain of government from local to central, and we also work in a context of hyper-local areas, thus thinking sometimes about neighbourhoods or even streets. Finally we have **territorial integration** and the question of the functional area and how we can get a realistic geography in order to operate that. If cities have expanded beyond their original boundaries, how we can get, without massive reforms which can take forever, a useful collaboration between neighbouring territories.

We have identified that a very radical form of new leadership is needed in European cities and I would perhaps think in world cities. It is not really about the old commanding control such as having a strong mayor who has all the answers, although mayors may be useful on occasion. It is really about how we can empower people at

all levels in the city. This is a challenge in Europe, with our different and diverse governance systems, and it is also a challenge in China.



Park Wonsoo from Seoul built an ear on the front of his town hall, which actually listens to what communities want to say. He has practiced a new level of transparency in how he governs his city, and he is probably the leading mayor on matters such as the sharing economy at the moment. And that board of Postit notes are the citizens' ideas about what he should do in his first term when he won his first election.

He went on to a second term. Mike Bloomberg, when he was mayor of New York, practiced what he preached about flat beats vertical in terms of hierarchy. So again breaking down hierarchy, his desk is no bigger, no more important than anyone else's desk in that office - he just happens to be sitting at his desk. Really different styles of leadership are needed for this transition, otherwise, frankly, we won't get there. It cannot be done through command and control.



An example of one of our networks is Reblock which is working with 10 cities across Europe. Looking at a southern European city, energy is not so much the issue as the fact that this type of building in Europe has been a catastrophe across the continent. So we have large numbers of high-rise housing estates, just as you do in China, but ours have become very often zones of social chaos. The challenge in these areas has been how we can re-invent the community, regain a level of ownership and control from the community and address some of the critical forces. What we have discovered with the other URBACT method, a multi-stakeholder approach bringing in local players and finding new ways to address these challenges, is that it can work in a very wide range of challenges or problems the local communities face. I think it is very similar to the method being used in networks like Energy Cities. It is very bottom-up and builds ownership of the problem and of the action plan to deliver solutions within the horizontal structures in the area but also along the vertical chain. So I would recommend that to you perhaps as a concluding remark.

To conclude, we must be integrated and participative but also, perhaps a word we do not often say, **acquisitive**. We need to be active about how to learn from where the good practices are elsewhere in the world. Those practices can be in Asia, they can be anywhere. But we also need to develop a methodology for acquiring those good practices and bringing them back into our own cities because it is that last kilometre which is the hardest part of the road. We can all see great ideas, but making them work in our administration, with our community, is a massive challenge."

➤ **Catherine Savart, Project Director, Véolia**

Towards an integrated approach for sustainable cities



“(…) Veolia is a company providing services for cities, industry and citizens. I will illustrate Pierre’s introduction with one example of a city which set up a particularly exemplary and successful partnership over the years, and Veolia is one of the partners involved in this story. This city is Borås, in Sweden, 60 kilometres from Gothenburg, and it chose to gradually free itself from fossil fuels. It started in the late 1950s at the time when consumer society in Europe was at its peak and oil supply was plentiful. In a tangible demonstration of acquiring environmental awareness, the city set up its municipally owned company “B.E.M” which was in charge of making these pioneering

dreams a reality and of managing a large range of public services such as energy waste and waste-water services.

In the 1980s the city created an association to pool the ideas and resources of local officials, academics and businesses. This collaborative partnership for a more sustainable future was undoubtedly instrumental in the successful energy solutions developed in Borås with the end goal of creating a carbon-neutral city by 2025 and an energy turnaround that would allow Borås to emit seven times less CO² in the space of 50 years. So to give shape to this sustainable society, Borås built a district heating network linked to the power plant. At first it burnt only coal, since only a small production of waste was recycled. Then, thanks to continuous improvements that made the facility cleaner and more efficient, it was converted to biomass and coal, then to a combination of fuel obtained from waste sorting and biomass.

To manage fluctuating demand on the district heating network in a sustainable manner, they use the fuel obtained from waste in the summer and add to this fuel source, biomass in the autumn and winter. Fossil fuels may also be used to cope with spikes in demand on the coldest days of winter. However, as part of the campaign to smooth out these peaks and move towards a goal of zero fossil fuel, they built an 80-metre high accumulator tank with a capacity of 35,000 cubic meters to store energy as hot water. This reservoir is the largest hot-water storage facility ever built in Europe. Residents have named the tank “the thermos”, and it has now become a cherished landmark for the city. Lit up with Christmas lights in the winter, it is a real source of pride to the people. Another source of satisfaction for local representatives and a keystone in the Borås development model is the willingness of the city’s people to sort their waste. This attitude is underpinned by a policy designed to raise awareness and promote responsible citizenship. Today, only 4% of the waste collected each year ends up in a landfill and 30,000 metric tons of organic waste is turned into biogas used to power the city’s buses, garbage trucks and taxis.

To conclude with, I would say that a strategy for sustainable cities depends on specific solutions that are tailor-made, global flows management, and synergies between water and energy, and between waste and energy for

example. It is also based on integrating high performance technologies into services at the best possible cost. We must always think about end-user oriented solutions with an adapted governance and also, very important, long-term involvement.”

➤ **Hu Haidong, General Manager of Broad Air Conditioning Europe**



“(…) I have prepared two videos, but I will show one of them due to the time limits.

The video “Three Floors Each Day, China’s the New Normal” shows the latest contribution of the Broad Group in sustainable development. This is a 57-floor skyscraper near our headquarters in Changsha. The 200-metre high building was constructed and completed in 19 days.

As a private enterprise, the Broad Group has devoted itself to energy conservation and environmental protection over the past two decades. Our corporate philosophy is: We preserve life. This 57-floor skyscraper is called sustainable construction, which is an innovation to Chinese traditional architecture. Unfortunately this kind of technology is still at developmental stage. Our latest overseas order is from Myanmar. We are looking to build a sustainable 100-floor building there. Meanwhile, we have not built the same in Europe. With this video I would encourage developing and developed countries to take more pragmatic action based on energy conservation and environmental protection. Just as Mr Elelman from Barcelona said, we need less discussion and more action. As a representative of a Chinese enterprise, I appeal to state governments to pay more attention to and give policy support for innovative companies in energy conservation and environmental protection. Only in this way can we actually build sustainable buildings and realise the target of energy conservation and environmental protection.”

➤ **Gary Topp, Business Development Manager, Bristol Green Capital Partnership**

A low carbon city with a high quality of life for all

“(…) Bristol is a fantastic city in the south-west of England with about 450,000 people in a city-region of about 1.2 million people. It has recently been announced Britain’s most liveable city, it is a cycling city, it is a social-enterprise city and you all know that this year it is European Green Capital. It is also frequently referred to as a laboratory for change and this morning we have heard a lot about the value of partnership and stakeholder engagement. I was extremely pleased to hear Alexander talk about civilian society in his opening comment. We talk a lot about that in Bristol and ask ourselves a very simple question at the moment: Who really makes and changes cities? Is that government at all levels? Or is it in fact the organisations, the citizens,



the businesses, the charities and the core institutions of the city itself that have a very important role to play? Back in 2007 our city council recognised that Bristol had a lot of organisations that were starting to care about green stuff and invited 12 of them to sit around a table and engage in a conversation about the future of the city. Those 12 organisations were of course environmental organisations and universities but there were also some big businesses. In 2015 we don't have a table big enough for the 830 organisations that come together at city level to care about the future of our city. We also have more than 5,000 individuals on our mailing list.

So what is it about civilian society that is so important? Well it is that space where social innovation happens, it is that space where, at street level, people come together and improve their street, it is a space where gardens grow up on street corners and food is grown in a city food trail. There is a lovely little story about a Bristol green capital partnership, formed in 2007. Those 12 people sat around the table and said, "What should we call ourselves?" At that point the European Union ran something called then, and still does of course, "The Capital of Culture". It did not at that point have anything called "Green Capital", but these people decided that they would invent one and called themselves "The Green Capital Partnership". It was a very farsighted move in fact, and they were delighted to work with the city council and eventually secure the award for the city.

What does our partnership do? It is a place for dialogue, a place for city conversations about important issues. It is also a place for action. We have hundreds of projects going on across the city run by our civilian society partners, on food, energy, waste, nature, social cohesion, on all sorts of fantastic things where organisations and citizens just say we want to do this, we want to make it happen. And in that social innovation way, often making that stuff happen in advance of the policies or the city government or the European government making that stuff happen. So it becomes a mechanism for pushing change forward in a very important way. We always do it, of course, with a sense of engagement and fun, so there are a lot of festivals and talks and street closures, and urban food trails and all sorts of other fantastic stuff. Basically in any year there is a lot happening in Bristol. This year you could be busy everyday enjoying it.

But in 2015, as we celebrate the European Green Capital year, we also recognised that it was time to deepen this conversation and ask a very serious question about "how do we create the cities of the future that we want? And how does that conversation have a real voice at things like COP21 later in the year?" So we think that demands a new intellectual foundation, a new thinking about the power of civilian society to change cities. We are working with our universities to run some research projects this year to look at that. We also recognised that having had the generous support of our city council in helping us to administer ourselves and run ourselves for a few years, it was time that we separated ourselves from the city council and became more what you call in the UK, an independent community interest company. You may think of it as a form of charity. So we are also working half of this year to figure out how we maintain our structures, our website, and our advances in a business-like manner, in an independent civilian society organisation.

This is a new partnership approach. We think it is at the forefront of global thinking on civilian society partnerships, we think it is massively important that cities take the lead in creating our slogan "a low-carbon

city with a high quality of life for all". We think that in Bristol we have not got it a 100% right but we have got a fantastic foundation upon which to drive this agenda forward."

➤ **Marta Mancini, Chief Officer, Foreign Affairs Department, Institutional Relations, Mayor's Office - City of Milan**

Urban Food Policy Pact



"What I am going to present today is the Urban Food Policy Pact. This is a concept quite similar to the Covenant of Mayors that was introduced this morning by the representative of the Committee of the Regions. It is actually a pact, a protocol promoted firstly by the city of Milan and that will be signed on the UN Day for Food on October 16 in Milan, by many mayors of the world. Among them there will be many from Europe and China. That is why I considered it to be an interesting partnership between Europe and China to present today.

The central point of this pact is the fact that Milan is hosting the World Expo 2015, to which I invite all of you, until October 21. This is taking place in our city following the World Expo in Shanghai in 2010 that many of you certainly visited. And the two world expos have in common a focus on cities and sustainable development. The theme of Milan Expo 2015 is, in fact, "feeding the planet, energy for life", so in brief, food and nutrition for the whole world.

Given these starting points, Milan is now working to elaborate its own food policy and we are advocating together with other cities of the world, an international protocol engaging the largest members of world cities for the development of food systems based on the principles of sustainability and social justice. There are many themes that are dealt with by the pact, such as waste reduction, reduction of CO2 emissions due to food transport, social inclusion issues related to food such as providing food for low-income neighbourhoods in cities, or land access for farmers near to cities and the links between rural production and city food needs.

I would like to say a few words about the process which is leading us to the presentation of the protocol. We started last year with many webinars with experts from a range of cities, such as the Shanghai Food and Drug Administration which was a major player in this process. These experts discussed possible targets, commitments and recommendations until one month ago, by which time the draft of the pact has been presented to all participating cities. Now the pact will be disseminated to the largest number of mayors in the world. And as you can see, on October 16, it will be presented to the UN Secretary, Mr Ban Ki-moon, on the occasion of World Food Day. This is a very important for us because, of course, our mayors conceived the pact as the major legacy of World Expo 2015. It is a set of commitments that mayors take for the long term, and that will engage them over the coming years to reach concrete results.

In the list of cities currently participating with us in this project you can see Beijing and Shanghai as

representatives of China. As I told you many more cities will take part in the signing ceremony and in the signing process which can of course also take place independently after October 16. As I told you, it is a tool that is intended to be useful over the years to come.

I will not go more into details but of course I am available to provide more information, including the draft of the pact and framework of action with concrete best practices put forward by cities. The final thing I would like to add is that we would be more than happy to receive suggestions from any city, European or Chinese, that could suggest good practices which could be implemented and copied in other cities. ”

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➤ **HUANG Haifeng, Executive Director of Ecological Development Union International (EDUI), Professor at HSBC School of Business, Beijing University**



“I’d like to make a summary from the main ideas of the speakers above. In multi-governance procedure, especially for urban sustainable development, a city needs clean air, soil and water, sustainable traffic, healthy food and good education. All of the speakers have set good examples in the above aspects. We can achieve a lot in the following three aspects.

The first aspect is the establishment of a platform from which we can achieve practical things rather than simply chanting slogans. The second is that we have built up a social network platform, and I would like to attach importance to education, particularly university education, to call on more people to join us in order to encourage more and more enterprises, communities, philanthropic organisations and NGOs to work with each other on the urban sustainable development platform. Regarding the third aspect, we have made great efforts to turn individual actions into collaborative ones and I am deeply touched by the European experience that shows cities such as Milan and enterprises have set up commendable network platforms showing great potential for China-Europe cooperation.

In addition, I think the cooperation of financial organisations from both sides is important too. The construction of an ecological city cannot be completed without low-carbon development, a circular economy and green development. **To date there is no city in China that has implemented waste classification.** It is what we should learn from European experience.

In the procedure of urban development it is emphasized that ecology and the disconnection of economic development and substance dependence is the key point of urban eco-transition. We should regard our present development in a long-term vision. I take it as a beginning, a goal and also a working plan.

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✚ **Part II. Presentation of the draft of the Pact of Co-responsibility and amendments to the text, discussing its use and dissemination**

➤ **Pierre Calame, President of the China Europa Forum Foundation**

“We ask ourselves and I ask myself, what is the way forward? And you have seen at least from the European side seven different networks of cities emerging: on housing, on energy... converging after 20 years of experience to some very key conclusions...

I could see that the word “pact”, introduced by our friend from Milan, expresses very well the idea that we now have to say “what we are going to do together?,” and “what is the next step for doing things together - to have strong convergence in Europe, in China, between Europe and China?”, to say “how do we understand our common responsibilities?” I could see that the notion of a pact would come in two



ways in our discussion: a pact between cities just as expressed in the urban food policy pact. To enforce such a pact, however, you need to have internal pact of all the stakeholders in a city in order to achieve healthy and sustainable food. And it is exactly the same for the different stories we heard. So I wondered what the dimensions should be for a strong pact of co-responsibility. I found that there were five dimensions which should be considered.

The first is: We need to have a common understanding of cities and territories, the way the eco-system works, the different flows. Lots has been said about the emerging consciousness of civilian society and the role, as our friend from Bristol and also our friend from Energy Cities stated, the key role of the consciousness of the citizen, their empowerment to act, their capacity to be involved in local action and how to bring that in at the level of the huge systemic transition, including cultural, which was mentioned. **That supposes that we build together a real understanding of the ecosystems of our cities and also involve the citizen in this understanding. It is not an understanding from only the majors and researchers but from the common work of the people.** So let us try and understand together the ecosystem we are living in.

The second is: “What is an acquisitive process?” In fact it has been shown through different conditions that it meant to learn from each other - not the solutions but common principles with specific solutions. How do we build that together? How do we learn from each other? We heard of fantastic experiences around the table. How can we share that, and topic after topic, in order to build common principles to help understand and imagine specific solutions. I love the word “imagine” which is used by Energy Cities and which helps to project into the long term. So this is the second dimension of such a pact.

The third dimension is about the systemic transition and I am not going to list what I learnt from the different networks, but see if we could agree on a common list of topics including the foremost which is the global management of energy - not sector management of energy - then we could show a roadmap for the long term.

The fourth point, is about inclusive and multi-level governance. As has been said: ecological sustainability will not stand without social sustainability. So how do we articulate that? Some of you have mentioned the **change in the leadership.** You could see that emerging from the different speeches: a **bottom-up process making room for creativity and not just a top-down technical approach. So how do we conceive this multi-**

level inclusive governance and how do we conceive the phrasing, the formulation of mutual responsibilities whether concerning the food supply chain or whether about energy.

Fifth, there is a need to address the state level or the European level because I can see that cities and regions are now well ahead in efforts to achieve a comprehensive approach to the transition. They also depend on constraints (taxation, management of quotas, impact on supply chains, negotiating international commercial agreements) and they are dependent for the success of their effort on changes at the level of the state. So how could we do to unite the efforts of the city and local governments to tell their governments “now we are ready”, just like the Covenant of Mayors did at the European level? We commit ourselves, we don’t wait for the other to commit, we commit ourselves, but we will be helpless, we will be limited, if you don’t change. And so cities could speak loudly and together not just to say “we want more power, we want more power” but to say “we need this and this and this change in order to change the scale of our transition efforts”. So this is what we would like to present to you and, very briefly, actions. I was very happy to hear that the Committee of the Regions is going to be part of the group of initiators of the Pact, support the Pact and if we could in a way express the convergences between the different networks in Europe and in China to give a strong common visibility to what is our common effort, I think we could achieve something great. ”

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➤ **Maurizio Mariani, Coordinator of European Network of Eating Cities**

“At Eating Cities Platform we have a really deep interest in disseminating and fostering this Pact of Responsibility. We find all our ideas, all our activities within it. When you talk about the metabolism of the city, this is a phrase we like. City, metabolism and food is one of the main issues. There is inflow and outflow, and there is externality of food, so a city must manage the metabolism of the food system.

Moreover, we will introduce this declaration, this Pact of Co-responsibility, today and at the next summer campus we are organising in Paris with 50 young people coming from 38 countries. Every year we write a declaration with them, with the youth, about the division of our daily food system. This year it will be fully dedicated to the four natural elements and especially for the Cop21 in Paris to be held in December. In October there will also be the UN Local Economic Development Forum in Turin, and during the Expo in Milan in August a delegation will come. We will introduce our declaration and this Pact to the US Government, the US Secretary of State.

We are thus fully engaged in this challenge and I would like to add something more: We really need a kind of win-win relationship between private and local authorities, the private and public sector. This should be one of the keys for success in the ecological transition of our cities in Europe and in China.”

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➤ **Jacques Saint Marc, Delegate of the President of the Intergovernmental Steering Committee on Urbanisation, France**

“Today it is very important to come to the realisation that we are not only speaking about global warming for the Earth and the oceans. Now it is very important to have a solution and share the solution. I will make a short presentation about Lyons, reusing the bank of the river at Lyons.

Sustainable development a permanent approach:

- The Lyon Metropole example is worthy of guiding us all in our common pursuit of a low-carbon better future
- Lyon Metropole decided that 75% of construction must be situated in the already urbanised area not outside, to save land farming. It is very important not to expand the city because if you expand the city you will expand transport etc.
- Lyons must embellish its public places and reconvert former (old) industrial and commercial buildings

Streets and river-bank conversion

The re-use of the banks of the Rhône: Ten years ago this was only for cars and now it is a park - 10 hectares inside the city centre.

- The experience of the last 20 years has shown that in order to design and conduct such a transition it is necessary to base action on a diagnosis shared by the entire population and all stakeholders.
- The champions of the transition towards sustainable cities are thus characterised by:
 - long-term commitment;
 - the will to create long-term partnerships whether at the level of cities and regions, or between European and Chinese partners;
 - a comprehensive vision of systemic transition; and the capacity to design innovative solutions.

Remember, we have one planet, just one, and you are all welcome at the COP 21 in Paris. Please share the achievements.

➤ **ZHANG Renbiao, Chairman of the Professorial Committee of the School of Political Science and International Relations at Tongji University, Deputy Director of the Chinese Urban Sociology Society (CSA)**



I am a scholar from Shanghai. Now that China's urbanisation is entering a new stage which emphasises how to transform the old city to a new urban development that is a turning point, but also presents new challenges. The previous stage of China's urbanisation was expanding the city into a large area of rural land. Now we are entering into old city transformation. This involves protection of historic and cultural



buildings, and this may face greater challenges compared to the previous stage. We can rebuild nature in the city, but if the city's historic and cultural buildings are destroyed and disappear they are non-renewable. I heard the presentation by Mr Jacques Saint Marc concerning 75% of urban transformation situated in the already urbanised area. I think that the experience needs to be learnt for China. That is also an issue we would like to discuss with Europe.

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➤ **Pierre Calame:**

What we need to do is find a way of building common ground for the future exchanges of experience

“Our Pact of Co-responsibility is not about creating a new network. There are a lot of them. In Europe at least, most cities don’t know how many they belong to. This started from the statement that when you look at the experience of ICLEI, of Energy City, of URBACT, and now the food system etc., you will find a lot of convergences. So it is an historic moment when we can say: “Yes, there are convergences and these are the convergences.” That is very important. It is not a declaration.

I think that it could be the base for corporate cooperation. Using the example that Catherine Savart gave: How do we articulate the win-win strategy between the public and the private sectors as well as between corporations in China and in Europe? To have common ground which is not only from a specific agreement between such and such companies, but to say “yes, we are part of this process of co-responsibility”, that can create a common ground of understanding. I think what we need is to have a short document in which we can recognise the contribution of each network’s experience, and that is very important. It could not exist without the 20 years’ experience of the different networks but now we need a converging point including the dialogue with our Chinese friends who are facing enormous challenges.

The Pact of Co-responsibility is only a draft, the first draft. If we could have reactions on the Chinese side, on the European side, this is what should be emphasised, just as our friend from Barcelona noted that we should highlight the role of citizen much more. **What we need is to find a way to build common ground for the future exchanges of experience. This is my hope. I think it is possible because there has been a long path travelled over the last 20 years, an enormous number of experiences have been gained and it is time now to move on to a new step, including a call together to governments. This is a change that should occur if we want our effort not to be useless just because it is confronted with contrary orientations from the government.** This was only a start, putting things on the table, and now each of the networks thinks of the conditions under which it would be part of this common effort.”

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✚ **Part III. Presentation of the "China-Europe Green Towns and Business Platform", and Nominations, Awards to Chinese cities, companies and foundations involved in the transition to sustainable cities**

➤ Green Platform presentation, by Chen Yan, Director of the China Europa Forum

"I would make three points about the "China-Europe Green Towns and Business Platform" and the China-Europe Green Award.

- 1) The "China-Europe Green Towns and Business Platform" was initiated by the China-Europa Forum and the China Philanthropy Research Institute after our Paris Conference on climate change held in December 2014. Its objectives were first to establish a platform of dialogue and exchange, a sharing of experience between Chinese and European societies, and second to strengthen the development of citizens, enterprises and institutions in civilian society networks, and to evaluate and reward the efforts of cities, enterprises, associations and citizens in the field of sustainable development. I hope this platform is not only for cities, but also includes corporates, individuals, institutions, NGOs, etc. It is our hope to promote it as a multi-network, multi-channel, multi-orientation platform.
- 2) The core activities. One of the main activities of the platform is the *China-Europe Green Award*. The reason why we launched the Green Award is because to date we have not seen an award aiming to encourage ecological conservation and environmental protection towards sustainable development between China and Europe.
- 3) The necessity for and urgency of the China-Europe Green Award. Europe is a leader in green development. The China-Europa Forum has an obligation to introduce the European experience to China, and for the European side, the speed and scale of Chinese urbanisation is unprecedented, which is challenging for the world, Europe, and all countries. A combination of both must have great significance for the green transformation of humanity.

Finally, the China-Europe Green Award is a green award for civilian society. It can be a supplement for the governments of each country, for Europe and China. From the green transformation perspective we hope to mobilise cities, institutions, and NGOs to participate in this event. In the meantime we also hope that the China-Europe Green Award could provide a reference system for the public.



➤ Awards Ceremony

Chaired by Zhang Youyun, Council Member of the China Economic and Social Council, and Executive Vice President of the China Association for Employment Promotion (CAEP):



The first Awards Ceremony included the following Chinese Champion cities, enterprises and foundations in ecological transition. **Ten Green Cities Award:** Macau, Zhuhai, Shenzhen, Guangdong, Zhenjiang, Jiangsu, Guizhou, Guiyang, Chengdu, Changbai Mountain Nature Reserve, Haikou, Xiamen, Fujian, Zhejiang

Zhoushan Islands District; **Ten Green Enterprises Award:** Vanke, Tencent, ENN, Wanda, Ali Baba, Minsheng Bank, Broad Technology group, Haier Group, Hainan Airlines, Lenovo; **Ten Foundation Awards:** Beijing Entrepreneurs Environmental Protection Foundation, Elion Foundation, Yunnan Green Environment Development Foundation, Trina Community Foundation, the China Environmental Protection Foundation, Laoni Foundation, Alibaba Foundation, China Green Foundation, SEE Foundation, China Green Carbon Foundation.

Paul TRAN VAN THINH, President of the China-Europa Forum Association, Gerard Stahl, former Secretary-General of the EU Committee of the Regions, respectively presented the awards to the representative of Zhenjiang city and the representative of the Broad Technology Group.

