1. **2019 – 2020 Biennial Programme of Work of the Coordination Mechanism for Cooperation in Forestry between China and CEE countries**

**Rationale**

In the last two years the LG and the Executive coordinating body have been working to establish the institutional framework of the Coordination Mechanism for Cooperation in Forestry between China and CEE countries (16+1 Forestry mechanism), and have together with the stakeholders in the scientific and business community worked towards identification of the specific areas of cooperation of the Mechanism.

The main goal was to identify new channels of cooperation and encourage all-round exchanges in the forestry sector. We have held two meetings of the LG group and one high level meeting since then. Several bilateral agreements of understanding have been signed or are about to be signed by the stakeholders in China and CEEC. Several scientific conferences have been held to identify the scope of the science and education cooperation under the 16+1 forestry mechanism.

Following the Action plan adopted by our ministers in Brdo, Slovenia in May 2016 we have established the website [china-ceecforestry.org](http://china-ceecforestry.org/) as the main web platform for exchange of information and carried out the process of identification of areas of cooperation in all three areas of cooperation. Yet several challenges arising from the initial action plan of the mechanism remain.

On the part of the administrative management the 16+1 forestry mechanism needs to reach out and increase its visibility among stakeholders, stressing its role and opportunities and provide entry points to all interested stakeholders, as to allow them to quickly identify the opportunities for themselves and to get reliable, updated information they need. The administrative management should, as the Action plans indicates, serve as the main go-to platform, when it comes to cooperation in forestry and wood-processing cooperation within 16+1 members.

On the part of the scientific research and education cooperation we have seen a wide response from our institutions and held events. The challenge remains to increase the number of joint projects between our scientific and educational institutions, and facilitate for the exchange of students, researchers and teachers and that this operation are duly funded.

In the field of Business and investments opportunities the challenge is to mainstream our activities to offer support to the business stakeholders who are looking to establish, increase or expand the cooperation within 16+1 forestry and wood processing sector.

The Biennial Plan of Work 2019-2020 (BPW) follows the logic set by the Action plan and its BPW that was adopted by the 16+1 ministers at the at the 1st China-CEEC High-Level Meeting on Cooperation in Forestry in Brdo Slovenia May 2016.

**16+1 Forestry Cooperation Coordination Mechanism**

**Biennial Programme of Work 2019-2020**

**(Draft)**

**I. Administrative management**

In the area of administrative management the 16+1 forestry mechanism has been developing since 2016 and has established the basic organisational structure and tools for its operation, the Liaison group, the Executive board, the Rules of procedure, etc. and we jointly created the china-ceecforestry.org web site to help us run this cooperation smoothly.

The visibility of the 16+1 forestry mechanism and the involvement of the stakeholders of the 16+1 countries in the activities of the 16+1 forestry mechanism remains the main challenge of the ECB secretariat and the LG.

To that effect the LG members and the ECB will work towards reaching the wider audience of stakeholders in business and scientific community by making full use of the mechanism's website and other available tools of the ECB by following actions:

1. Continuous updates of the country based info including basic information, forest resources information, relevant laws and regulations on forestry, etc., as well as best practices of sustainable and multifunctional management of forests in relation to different types of forests.
2. Publishing information on online promotions, business opportunities, joint projects, conferences, seminars etc. in China and CEEC, forestry-and wood processing industry fairs.
3. Increasing the visibility of the mechanism by attracting the stakeholders to join the activities of the 16+1 Forestry, and mainstreaming the activities of all 16+1 members to increase exposure of mechanism and opportunities for its members and stakeholders (Networking of the operators, coordination of marketing activities).
4. Strengthening the networking among members through country visits by the ECB Secretariat to meet with national stakeholders.

**II. Scientific research and education cooperation.**

The scientific cooperation has been quite successful with several conferences, seminars and signatures of memorandums of understandings between 16+1 members under the umbrella of the 16+1 forestry mechanism. The members have identified areas of common interest and some exchange of good practices in sustainable and multifunctional management of forests in relation to different types of forests has taken place during these events.

The LG members and the ECB will encourage:

1. Exchange of good practices in sustainable and multifunctional management of forests in relation to different types of forests.

2. Follow up review of existing research institutions and programs and upgrading existing systems.

3. Facilitate research institutions to jointly apply and implement international cooperative projects and

4. a further cooperation among forestry universities and institutes in China and CEECs, to encourage the exchange of visiting scholars and scientific research links.

5. encourage voluntary funding for joint projects.

**III. Business and investments opportunities**

The cooperation in business and investments has faced several challenges in the past two years due to the specifics of the forestry sector and differences in our wood processing markets. The ECB and the LG will work toward establishing business models of cooperation suitable for these specificities, establishing links between representative organisations in forestry and wood processing sector in each 16+1 country and encourage online publishing of the investment opportunities in this sector by the following actions:

1. Creation of a common database of good practices in relation to forest-based industries and exchange of good practice in promoting green economy

2. Identification of investment opportunities in forest wood chain and identification of economic cooperation

3. Cross-border and inter-sectoral cooperation between public and private actors in order to encourage the use of innovation in the modernization of the wood processing industry and ensuring the competitiveness of the forest-based value – chain

4. Networking of operators in wood processing industry as well as joint ventures on third markets

5. Invite forestry enterprises from both sides to China and /or CEE countries to set up booths in industry fairs, organize workshops for enterprises from China and CEEC to develop potential business cooperation areas, and encourage the exchange of visits between enterprises from China and CEE countries