

**ACTION PLAN**  
**FOR COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF**  
**THE COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR COOPERATION IN FORESTRY BETWEEN CHINA AND**  
**CEE COUNTRIES**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia and the State forestry Administration of the People's Republic of China signed in Beijing on 6 November 2015 a Memorandum of understanding on establishment of the Coordination Mechanism for the Cooperation in Forestry.

On 24 November 2015, the 4th Summit of China and Central and Eastern European Countries (hereinafter referred to as "CEECs") formulated and issued *the Suzhou Guidelines for Cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European Countries*, which confirmed that the Participants support Slovenia in leading the efforts to establish a China-CEEC coordination mechanism for forestry cooperation. The 1st China-CEEC High-Level Meeting on Cooperation in Forestry will be held in Slovenia in May 2016. It also issued *the Medium-Term Agenda for Cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European Countries*, which wrote that during 2015-2020, "the Participants will identify new channels of cooperation and encourage all-round exchanges in the forestry sector. The Participants support the establishment of a 16+1 coordination mechanism for forestry cooperation, and the China-CEEC High-level Meeting on Cooperation in Forestry will be organized alternately in China and one of the CEECs on a regular basis."

On 24 May 2016, the 1st China-CEEC High-Level Meeting on Cooperation in Forestry discussed and passed *the Action Plan for the Cooperation within the Framework of the Coordination Mechanism for the Cooperation in Forestry between China and CEE Countries*.

**Vision:**

Forests are of great importance for improving livelihood, promoting green growth, addressing climate change, protecting ecological safety, and promoting social and economic development.

Forests offer habitats for animals and plants and play a major role in environmental services.

Forests contribute to rural development and have social functions at the local, national and global levels. For best forest management practices it is vitally important to gain insight into the structure and development of natural forests. Therefore, forests reserves are reference sites for assessing the efficiency of close to nature forests.

**Mission:**

China and Central and Eastern European Countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, and Slovenia) shall play their due role in promoting sustainable and multifunctional forest management, protecting wetlands and wildlife, developing a green economy and ecological culture, and make joint efforts to accomplish the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the goal to sustainably manage forests.

The coordinating mechanism in forestry and its executive coordinating body based in the Slovenian capital will serve as the link between China and CEEC to exchange information, conduct policy dialogues, strengthen consensus and promote cooperation, and as a platform for cooperation contacts between Chinese and CEEC institutions, organizations and enterprises and their counterparts.

The executive coordinating body of the Coordinating Mechanism in Forestry will be managed and represented by a director. The director will be assisted by a Liaison Group. Members of the Liaison Group from China and CEEC will be nominated by the respected ministers. The Liaison Group will prepare a biennial program of activities of the Coordinating Mechanism in Forestry.

The CEEC may join the Coordination mechanism on a voluntary basis. The participation in this mechanism will not create any legally binding obligation. Regardless of the number of countries declaring their intention to participate in the Coordinating Mechanism in Forestry during the High-level meeting, the cooperation will start immediately based on the Action Plan.

**Goals:**

Cooperation within the China – CEEC Cooperation Mechanism in Forestry shall be conducted at three levels:

- Administrative management – with the aim to avoid any administrative barriers.
- Scientific research and education cooperation.
- Business and investments opportunities.

The Forestry Coordination Mechanism foresees following sub-areas of cooperation:

1. Sustainable and multifunctional forest management:

- Exchange of good practices in sustainable and multifunctional management of forests in relation to different types of forests.
- Conservation of forests, taking into account cultural characteristics of society and traditional use of space.
- Importance of forests and forestry in wetlands and wildlife habitat conservation.
- Importance of forests and forest-based industry in green economy.
- Sustainable management of natural resources as an opportunity for people's greater social inclusion

2. Exchange of information, best practices and joint projects in the field of forestry research and the role of forestry in the entire forestry/wood chain;

- Follow up review of existing research institutions and programs and upgrading existing systems.
- Creation of a common database of good practices in relation to forest-based industries
- Encouraging research institutions to jointly apply and implement international cooperative projects.

3. The promotion of trade, knowhow and technology in forestry, from wood processing to green product and green technology.

The basic motto of cooperation will be "wood as key renewable source in green economy".

- Identification of investment opportunities in forest wood chain and identification of economic cooperation.
- Exchange of good practice in promoting green economy.
- 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.
- Networking of operators in wood processing industry as well as joint ventures on third markets.

## **Action plan of the coordinating Mechanism in Forestry for 2016/2017**

### Executive coordinating body:

- Create the China-CEEC Forestry Cooperation Website.
- Create of a sub-website on wood processing industry in China and CEECs.
- Online promotions, business opportunities, joint projects, conferences, seminars in China and CEEC.
- Coordination of marketing activities (see below Promotion and trade opportunities).

### Liaison group:

- Biannual action plans.
- Specification of the desired types of cooperation with a foreign partner. The specification will be published on China-CEEC Forestry Cooperation Website through Executive Coordinating Body.

### Promotion and trade opportunities:

- Promotion of cooperation in forestry, promoting sustainable and multifunctional forest management, best practices in wetland and wildlife conservation, promotion and development of green economy and ecological culture.
- Participation in forestry-and wood processing industry fairs.
- Study tours from CEECs to China and vice versa for wood processing industry.
- Study tours from CEECs to China and vice versa for forestry management.

### Scientific research and education cooperation:

- Establish a cooperation mechanism among forestry universities and institutes in China and CEECs, to encourage the exchange of visiting scholars and scientific research links.
- Participation in forestry-related science and technology workshops and seminars, to explore cooperative topics for scientific research in forestry and to identify priorities for cooperation.