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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: China Europe Water Platform (CEWP) High-Level Conference
(Turku, Finland, 21-22 September 2017)
- Information from the Commission

Delegations will find in the Annex an information note from the Commission on the above subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Environment) meeting on 13 October 2017.

**China Europe Water Platform (CEWP) High-Level Conference
(Turku, Finland, 21-22 September 2017)**

- Information from the Commission -

The China Europe Water Platform (CEWP) High-Level Conference organised by Finland, took place in Turku on 21 September 2017 alongside a High-Level CEWP business Conference that gathered more than 100 representatives - half from China - from the public and private water sectors. The Water Platform Conference included a research and innovation event focused on sustainable development, circular economy and smart water. In all nearly 400 participants attended.

Ministers from Finland, Estonia, Sweden and China attended together with Commissioner Vella and high level representatives from Portugal, Denmark, Italy, Netherlands, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland. The World Bank, EIB, OECD and CEOs of water companies were also present.

The Conference resulted in two key outcomes: Commissioner Vella, Ministers and high level EU Member States representatives agreed and signed the 'Turku Declaration' showing strong support for EU–China cooperation on water. Commissioner Vella and Chinese Minister Chen Lei then signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing an EU-China Water Policy Dialogue - a follow-up to the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation. The first meeting of the Dialogue will take place in 2018 in Beijing and will be an opportunity to further public and private sector co-operation between the EU and China.

The China Europe Water Platform, established in 2012, is an informal platform of EU Member States, the European Commission and China's Ministry of Water Resources. The platform advocates an integrated approach to water management; encourages capacity-building, innovation and promotes technical and business cooperation between the EU and China. The CEWP work program is supported by a €8 million project under the EU Partnership Instrument, implemented by the European Commission and several EU Member States ¹.

¹ Finland, Denmark, Portugal, Sweden, France, Austria, Spain, Italy, Netherlands are actively involved in the implementation and Ireland, Poland, Hungary, Cyprus, and United Kingdom participate – to different degrees – in the CEWP meetings.