



**Activity Title and Number:** Seminar on the Government Procurement Agreement; A442-C5

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Finance (MOF)

**Location and Date:** Beijing; 21 May 2015

**Stakeholders:** European Commission Directorate-Generals for Internal Market, Industry Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), European Union Chamber of Commerce in China

## Brief Activity Report

### Relevance and Impact

The negotiations on China's accession to the plurilateral and legally binding Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO) started in 2007. In late 2014, China presented a fifth revised offer to accede to the GPA. Although the debate on this offer is on-going among the GPA Parties and China, it was recognised that the fifth offer included certain improvements. Two broad strands of the debate can be identified; (i) the scope of the market access offer in terms of sectors and entities included, with particular emphasis on sub-central level and on state owned enterprises; and (ii) the requirements of a regulatory framework necessary to match the level of coverage of existing GPA members, especially on procedural transparency. From October 2014, EUCTP II has supported a comparative study (A358-C5) to analyse the impacts of China's GPA accession, examining relevant case studies for example from high-speed railway and nuclear power industries, outlining benefits from the domestic perspective and exploring the role of relevant reform policies.

### Activity Description

Approximately 60 participants from different Chinese authorities' procurement departments, representatives from State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and reporters took part in the seminar on Government Procurement Agreement, organised by EUCTP II on 21 May 2015 in Beijing. Dr WANG Ping (Nottingham University, UK) presented the findings of the study on the impacts of China's GPA Accession, upon which representatives of both DG GROW and MOF commented and discussed, in particular, the following topics:

- Benefits of joining GPA: A summary of EU's experience
- Possible reform processes of the regulatory framework, especially regarding fair competition and transparency



**Opening remarks: Ms WANG Ying, Director General of MOF and Mr Pierre DELSAUX, Deputy Director General of DG GROW**

### Results and Dissemination

- ✓ The seminar allowed the dissemination of the study's findings on impacts and benefits of the GPA accession, including case studies from different perspectives (e.g. overcoming trade restrictive measures, export industry, regulatory reform, SOEs and benefits on governance) to officials from a large number of Chinese authorities' procurement bodies.
- ✓ Officials from MOF and DG GROW constructively discussed the findings of the report and both recognised the improvements in the fifth offer as well as the all-round benefits of China joining the GPA. Moreover concerns about the role of SOEs and transparency and the links to emerging industrial policies were addressed as well.
- ✓ It was recognised that the EU's experiences and models of government procurement will be very relevant to China given the complicated situation faced by the EU in establishing regulations with its member states while China has its provincial policies.