



Activity Title and Number: EU-China Seminar on the Globalisation and Regulation of the Legal Profession; A342-C1

Beneficiary: Ministry of Justice (MoJ)

Location and Date: Beijing; 3 July 2014

Stakeholders: MoJ local branches, All China Lawyer's Association, Beijing Justice Bureau and Bar Associations

Brief Activity Report

Relevance and Impact

China now has over 230,000 lawyers and 19,300 domestic law firms but few foreign law firm representative offices have been established. According to the Ministry of Justice, in 2012 there were 219 foreign law firms' representative offices in China which passed the 2011 annual registration process. Of these, 31% were European (Switzerland included). Regulatory restrictions on foreign law firms seeking to operate in China inhibit EU-China trade in legal services. Liberalising China's legal services market presents a major opportunity for EU law firms seeking to open representative offices in China and will lead to better outcomes for legal services consumers in China.

In the context of the ongoing investment negotiations and talks on market access commitments, EUCTP II organised a seminar on **Globalisation and Regulation of the Legal Profession** to assist China's reform efforts by drawing on the EU's deep experience regulating and liberalising its legal services market.

Activity Description

Thirty five Chinese participants from the Ministry of Justice and its local branches, All China Lawyer's Association, Beijing Justice Bureau and Bar Associations attended the seminar. MWE China, a Chinese law firm based in Shanghai and also known as Yuan Da in Chinese, is a pioneer in establishing a strategic alliance with an international firm in mainland China. One of the firm's founders presented an overview of China's progress towards liberalising regulation of the legal profession. A partner from Norton Rose Fulbright Hong Kong, a global law firm with offices in mainland China showed how to standardise and implement global regulations in the legal services industry with a special emphasis on handling differences between Member States' legal systems and regulatory standards.

Results and Dissemination

- Provided Chinese legislators with concrete examples of a successful liberalisation process
- Provided Chinese legislators with a platform to discuss the benefits of liberalising the legal services market, including greater competition and opening up new markets.