



Activity Title and Number: EU-China Seminar on the Liberalisation of Environmental Goods; A431-C1	Beneficiary: Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM)
Location and Date: Beijing, 18 November 2015	Stakeholders: Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Finance, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, China Chamber of Commerce for Import & Export of Machinery & Electronics Products, Environmental goods industry representatives, EUCCC

Brief Activity Report

Relevance and Impact

Fourteen WTO members, including the European Union and China, launched plurilateral negotiations for an Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) on 8 July 2014. This initiative aims to remove barriers to trade and investment in green goods, services and technologies. In October 2014, the EUCTP II organised a seminar on the liberalisation of environmental goods and services in Beijing for Chinese officials to better understand the impacts and consequences of eliminating tariffs on a wide range of environmental goods. The seminar provided Chinese officials with the latest information on the issues being discussed during the EGA negotiation rounds in Geneva. It also offered a rare opportunity for both Chinese and European sides to explain their positions on some of the on-going issues being negotiated in Geneva. As a follow-up activity, the EUCTP II organised a seminar aimed at helping both the European and Chinese side to achieve substantial progress at the negotiation table.

The timing of the seminar correlated with the final preparations of the two EGA parties – EU and China – and positions prior to the last planned technical round of the EGA (11th round 30/11- 4/12/2015). Both parties were represented by the head of negotiation team. On the Chinese side several ministries involved in the internal position and mandate coordination were involved in the seminar.

Activity Description

The Chairman of the European Sealing Association presented the case for the inclusion of sealing devices onto the EGA list and tried to address potential objections or concerns from both the Chinese industry and Chinese negotiators. The Managing Director of the SETI Alliance gave specific examples that tariff elimination is, in fact, a “win-win situation” for China – for both exporters as well as importers, who will have more direct access to competitive technology options. The presentation and discussion on industries focused on environmental goods relevant to China such as energy-saving electronic appliances, LED lighting, bicycles and eco-friendly furniture.

**Monika HENCSEY, DG TRADE,
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Results and Dissemination

The seminar:

- ✓ Provided a good opportunity to meet with relevant stakeholders involved in the EGA discussions within the Chinese market and answer/address their particular questions and/or concerns;
- ✓ Gave opportunities for in-depth exchanges between European and Chinese industry representatives to discuss with both the European and the Chinese negotiation teams;
- ✓ Highlighted the importance of participation of Chinese industry stakeholders, especially those from the most polluting sectors, in the fight to reduce the overall Chinese environmental footprint of Chinese industry.