



Activity Title and Number: Study Assignment on the Regulation of Credit Information Market and the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Data Subjects; A328-C1

Beneficiary: People's Bank of China (PBOC)

Location and Date: Spain, the Netherlands, Denmark; 17-27 June 2014

Stakeholders: DG ECFIN, DG MARKT, The Bank of Spain's Central Credit Register, the Spanish Data Protection Agency, the Danish Data Protection Authority, the Dutch National Credit Centre, RKI, DBR, Equifax and Experian

Brief Activity Report

Relevance and Impact

An effective financial credit information system is a vital part of a country's financial infrastructure and social credit system. It helps lenders to evaluate risks and consumers to obtain loans, insurance and other financial products on competitive terms. In early 2014, PBOC held the National Credit Information Work Conference at which the following major work areas for 2014 were defined: enforcement of credit information market regulation; establishment of a unified, clear and transparent regulatory framework; and improvement of the protection of the rights and credit information subjects.

In this context, EUCTP II held a study assignment to Europe aimed at deepening PBOC's knowledge of EU Member States' regulatory policies and practices on these issues.

Activity Description

Spain, the Netherlands and Denmark have very mature credit markets. Alongside the Bank of Spain's Central Credit Register sits private credit rating agencies and the Spanish government has developed a strong legal basis to protect personal data. The credit market in the Netherlands is rather unique as there are no public credit institutions, only private ones (for-profit and not-for-profit, as well as industry associations). Moreover, Dutch credit institutions have established a data exchange mechanism with credit institutions based abroad. Denmark does not have public credit institutions but only private (for-profit) and has also formulated strict data protection laws. Fifteen officials (including 9 vice-presidents of PBOC provincial branches) led by Mr. WANG Yu, Director General of the PBOC Credit Information System Bureau participated in the study assignment. They discussed issues linked to the management of the public credit reporting system, protection of information of subject's rights and interests and cross-border data flows. The meetings with Member States private credit rating agencies enabled participants to better understand credit reporting, credit market developments and the current situation of the credit markets in all three member states. With the Spanish Data Protection Agency and Danish Data Protection Authority, delegates discussed data protection laws, data protection management and credit market developments in Spain and Denmark.

Results and Dissemination

- ✓ PBOC officials will have a better knowledge when improving the collection, inquiry, use and sharing of credit information in the public and private sectors;
- ✓ Provided in-depth knowledge which will be instrumental when measures are taken to improve PBOC's credit information management capacity. This will help ensure the healthy development of credit information market in China.