



**Activity Title and Number:** A093-C1 and A098-C1. EU-China Workshop on Telecommunications Legal Framework and Internet Regulatory Issues

**Beneficiary:** Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress

**Location and Date:** Beijing, 28-29 November 2011

**Stakeholders:** Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Ministry of Commerce

## Brief Activity Report

### Relevance and Impact

China has the most mobile-phone and Internet users in the world, but only has regulations that govern the industry - it lacks a specific law for telecommunications, although Chinese authorities have discussed one for many years. A telecommunications law could address issues like inter-operability, licensing, pricing and competition, network security and the integration of phone services with the likes of mobile Internet and television. Also, since the rise of the Internet has exposed users to new areas of vulnerability, such as hacking and viruses, the importance of establishing policies to tackle cybercrime is ever-growing. Legislation and regulation would help deal with these threats and emerging challenges, while establishing clear, safe, and efficient guidance for the market and its users.

This workshop aimed to support relevant legislation by **having European experts share with Chinese participants their knowledge of the EU's legal framework for telecommunications and its Internet regulatory framework.** It also provided the attendees with **information helpful in drafting telecommunications-related legislation** and concrete issues to take into consideration regarding the legal aspects of Internet regulation in China.

### Activity Description

Approximately **30 participants** took part in the workshop over the 2 days where altogether **7 European experts**, ranging from university professors to consultants, from current **Information Society and Media Directorate General officials** to former ones, delivered presentations and engaged in the discussions. In addition, the **Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress** introduced the Chinese legislative system to experts, while the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council gave an overview of the proposed telecommunications law. Chinese participants included representatives from the **Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress, the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology** and the **Ministry of Commerce.**

Presentations and discussions centred on the following topics: the legal framework for regulating the telecommunications industry, competition in the telecommunications industry, the provision of universal services, Internet regulation, real-name registration, convergence and regulatory measures, Internet content regulation, and network security.

### Results

The workshop actively contributed to legislative efforts in China by deepening understanding among Chinese participants of the European Union's approaches and policies regarding the legal framework for telecommunications and Internet regulation. Moreover, it provided useful information that could aid in drafting telecommunications-related legislation or considering legal aspects of Internet regulation.