



## **2016 HIGH LEVEL EVENT ON SOCIAL PROTECTION REFORM PERSPECTIVE OF EMPLOYMENT POLICY AND SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM 2016 TO 2020 BEIJING, 28-29 SEPTEMBER 2016**



Organised by the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission NDRC and the Component 1 of the EU-China Social protection reform project SPRP, the project 2016 High Level Event was held in Beijing (Diao Yutai Hotel) on 28 and 29 September 2016. The theme for the event was Perspective of Employment and Social security reform, 2016-2020.

More than 120 participants attended the sessions, practically in equal proportions between Chinese representatives and representatives from European countries and international organizations. Chinese participants came from central ministries, academic circles and provincial governments, while 11 European countries and 4 international organisations were represented.

Mr Wang Xiaotao, vice chairman of the NDRC, and Mr Hans Dietmar Schweisgut, ambassador of the European Union to China and Mongolia, addressed the opening ceremony, chaired by Ms Cheng Jianlin, Deputy Secretary General of NDRC.

The meeting consisted of 5 technical sessions, each of them co-chaired by eminent Chinese and European personalities.



Mr Claude Jeannerot, Ambassador of France in charge of International social relations, and Mr Xu Lin, Director general of the Department of Development planning of NDRC, co-chaired the first session devoted to the review of Macro-economic and employment situation during the period 2016-2020. During this session, key-note speeches were delivered by Mr Pu Yufei, Director general of the Department of Employment and Income distribution of NDRC, on Persisting in Employment-prioritized strategy – Striving to realize relatively full

employment and higher job quality, and Mr Michel Servoz, Director general of the European Commission Directorate general for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, on the Perspectives of Employment policies and Social security in the EU. Two eminent scholars, Mr HU Angang, Director of the Center for China studies at Tsinghua University and Mr. Stefano Sacchi, from the University of Milano, Italy, also delivered speeches on, respectively, Innovation driving development and employment during China's thirteenth five-year plan, and Labour market policies in the European countries – Complementing structural reforms with growth.

The second session, co-chaired by Mr. Pu Yufei, Director general of the Department of Employment and Income distribution of NDRC and Mr. Tom Bevers, Chairman of the European Union Employment Committee EMCO, reviewed New-type urbanization and support policies for employment and job creation. Keynote speeches were delivered by Mr. Stefan Olsson, Director for Employment policies at the Directorate general for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission, on EU Employment and Social Priorities – EU initiatives, Mr. Zeng Xiangquan, Director of the China Institute for Employment research at Renmin University on Youth Employment policies – Good models from China, Mr. Jean-Yves Hocquet, from the national School for Higher Social Security Studies EN3S, France, on Social protection and employment – Trade off or synergies, and Mr. Zhang Juwei, Director, Institute of Population and Labour Economics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, on Population changes, labour market and reform of the Urban employees basic pension insurance system.

Mr. Jin Weigang, Director general of the Research Institute for Social security of the Ministry of Social security and Human resources, and Ms. Michaela Marksová, Minister of Labour and Social affairs of the Czech Republic, co-chaired the third session devoted to Universal coverage of Social security systems and adaptation to Mobility. Mr. Koen Vleminckx, Director of Research and international cooperation at the Federal Public Service Social Security of Belgium delivered a keynote speech on Universal coverage, while Ms. Katerina-Marina Kyriieri, from the Ministry of Finance of Greece, addressed the Protection of Migrant workers

under social security schemes in Europe. Professor Yue Jinglun, Deputy Dean, School of Public administration of Sun Yat-Senc University then introduced the Guangdong province case study on transfer and continuation of pension insurance of migrant workers, while Professor Lin Yi, Director of he Centre for Insurance and Social security studies of the South-western University of Finance and Economics submitted a case study on the interaction of Urban and Rural social security schemes in Sichuan Province.

The fourth session devoted to Social efficiency and inclusive growth, was co-



chaired by Ms. Oana Silvia Țoiu, Secretary of State, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social protection of Romania, and Mr. Song Xiaowu, Former Director of the Office of North-East Region Revitalization, State Council. Mr. Cao Wenlian, Director general of the International Cooperation Center ICC of NDRC, delivered a keynote speech on Understanding China's pension system reform

from the perspective of equity and redistribution function, followed by Mr. Antero Kiviniemi, from the Permanent representation of Finland to the European Union, who presented Income distribution, social fairness and welfare policies in Finland. Ms. Jiang Wei, Deputy Director general of the Department of Social assistance, Ministry of Civil Affairs, introduced Social assistance and poverty alleviation under the security of basic life needs during the period of the 13<sup>th</sup> five-year plan in China, while Ms. Pu Haihong, Deputy director of Shanghai Academy of Development and Reform, presented the Shanghai case study on population ageing and related counter-measures.

Session five reviewed the sustainability of social security systems and the financial reform, with Ms. Lucia Ortiz Sanz, deputy Director general of International social and labour relations of the Ministry of Employment and Social security of Spain and Mr. Liu Keguo, Deputy director, Academic Advisory Board, China Centre for Economic Exchanges, former vice-governor of Liaoning Province, former vice-governor of the National Development Bank, acting as co-chair persons. Mr. Wolfgang Scholz, from Rhein-Bonn-SieG Univrsity of Germany, introduced the “Riester Pensions” financing experience in his country. Mr. Xiong Junn, Direcor general of the Department of Planning and Research of the National council for Social security fund talked about improvements in the financing and management system of the social security fund, while Mr. Zhang Bingwen, Director of the Centre for International social security studies of the Chinese academy of social sciences delivered a keynote speech on the Financial sustainability of the Urban basic old-age insurance system in China.



Mr. Jean-Victor Gruat, Resident expert for Component One of the EU-China Social protection reform project, presided over the closing ceremony, where Mr. Giuseppe Conte, SPRP Project leader, Mr. Cyril Bouyeure, Special adviser to the President, Expertise France, and Ms. Song Gongmei, Deputy director general of the International cooperation Center ICC of the NDRC, addressed the audience.

All documents submitted to the meeting can be downloaded from the webpage <http://sprp-cn.eu/HLE2016>.