

JOINT DECLARATION ON STRATEGIC COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF THE  
FIFTH GENERATION OF MOBILE COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY  
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The European Commission, and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as “two sides”) emphasised that the communication infrastructures are essential for the digital economy and society.

The two sides recognise the importance of the timely development of the fifth generation of mobile communication networks (5G) which will be the backbone of the future digital society, creating more and better employment opportunities, and contributing to a sustainable economic growth for the mutual benefit of the European Union (EU) and of the People's Republic of China (China).

Each side stressed the need to provide the organisations of the other side with comparable access conditions and participation in 5G publicly funded research, development and innovation as well as reciprocal market access in the field of communication networks. They agreed to report on a yearly basis about the effective participation of entities in the EU and in China and to solve potential problems together.

They undertook to secure an equivalent level of industrial openness in the EU and in China for the 5G industrial associations that are steering the implementation of R&D, and notably the 5G Infrastructure Association and the IMT-2020 (5G) Promotion Group.

The two sides envisage enhanced cooperation in the area of 5G, fostering global consensus on the definition of 5G, developing common interests in research activities, harmonising radio spectrum policy to ensure global interoperability and preparing global standards for 5G.

The two sides also agreed to jointly work in the area of 5G on the following:

1. To strive to reach a global understanding, by the end of 2015, on the concept, basic functionalities, key technologies and time plan for 5G.
2. To work together to explore possibilities in cooperating and implementing joint research actions in the area of 5G and to facilitate bilateral participation of enterprises in 5G research projects in the EU and China.
3. To jointly promote global standardisation for 5G, in support of ongoing standardisation work in relevant organisations including 3GPP and the ITU.
4. To cooperate in facilitating the identification of globally harmonized radio frequency bands to meet the new spectrum requirements for 5G, and to reinforce cooperation in the context of the ITU and WRC.

5. To strive to explore jointly the possibilities for cooperative research on the services and applications for 5G, especially in the area of the Internet of Things (IoT).

The two sides recognised the importance of public-private partnerships for the development of 5G and expressed support for the deepening of interactions and exchanges between the bilateral industry associations dealing with 5G, including the 5G Infrastructure Association and the IMT-2020 (5G) Promotion Group.

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Commissioner  
For Digital Economy and Society,  
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