

# EU-China cooperation on sustainable urban and regional development

Walter Deffaa Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy European Commission

#### Shantou, 19 March 2016



## **Urbanisation: a joint challenge**

Risks:

 ✓ Urban population expected to double from 2.6 billion (2010) to 5.2 billion in 2050
 ✓ Environmental and social problems, congestion, safety, etc.

**Opportunities:** 

✓Cities = engines of growth and innovation, social and cultural development

Policy

✓ *Our future = future of our cities* 

"Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" (SDG 11)



## **Two-fold EU urban approach**

1) EU Urban Agenda with three components

- ✓ Regulatory
- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Sharing of knowledge and action

### **Pact of Amsterdam (NL-Presidency)**





## **Two-fold EU urban approach**

### 2) International outreach

 ✓ Urban dimension in 12 agreements on regional policy cooperation between European Commission (DG REGIO) and third countries

✓ World Cities (China, Canada, India, Japan)

✓ URBELAC (Latin America)



### EU-China Regional and Urban Policy Dialogue



Policy



## **EU-China Regional Policy Cooperation**

✓ *Started* 2006

✓ Annual High Level Dialogues and Seminars

- ✓ Expert exchanges
  ✓ 250+ experts from Chinese regions
  ✓ 130+ experts from EU regions
- Many cooperation agreements and MoUs signed: public authorities / research institutions / business





### **CETREGIO / World Cities impressions**







## **Perspectives for future cooperation (1)**

## **1. Deepened dialogue / cooperation**

Areas inter alia:

- ✓ Regional integration,
- ✓ regional innovation,
- ✓ support to start-ups an SMEs,
- ✓industrial transformation and upgrading,
- ✓linking urban and rural development,

✓ capacity building



## Perspectives for future cooperation (2)

### **2. Cities-to-cities and B2B cooperation**

#### ✓Explore and realize cooperation in:

- ✓ Innovative sustainable urban development
- ✓ Joint innovative business projects

### **3. EU Support through the Partnership Instrument 2016-2018**





Invitation:

European Week of Regions and Cities 2016 Brussels, 10-13 October 2016