



Brussels, 29th October 2012

Dear Katerina ZOUROU,

Please find herewith, the **official invitation** to the conference

"China-EU Conference on Multilingualism",

Hosted by the Chinese authorities in Beijing and co-organised by the European Commission (DG Education and Culture), which will be held in Beijing on 1st December 2012.

This high level conference will be one of the many high profile outputs of the High Level People to People Dialogue (HPPD) the third pillar of EU-China relations which will complement the two existing pillars – the High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue and the High Level Strategic Dialogue. On 18 April 2012 the EU and China held the first round of the HPPD in Brussels. On that occasion, Commissioner Vassiliou and State Councillor Liu Yandong signed a Joint Declaration and endorsed a document with follow-up actions. Both parties agreed to organise in 2012 a China-EU conference on multilingualism with a view to enhance language cooperation and to further promote multilingualism.

Together with higher education and VET, languages were identified as one of the three issues to be addressed in the context of HPPD in education. Languages can highly contribute to the knowledge and common understanding between China and the EU as bridges to other's culture and perceptions.

The China-EU Conference on Multilingualism will focus on the following main topics: *Language learning and teaching: strategies and approaches; Learning mobility and cross-cultural competences; Multilingual education and cultural diversity; Mutual promotion of Chinese in Europe and of EU official languages in China.* You will receive the final programme in the next few days.

Key experts in the language sector, representatives of language and culture institutes, policy makers, stakeholders, practitioners and academics will present a comprehensive overview of achievements, report on new developments, analyse future challenges in the current economic context and will reflect on possible ways forward. The Conference is expected to welcome more than 250 participants.

Please be informed that in order to obtain a visa for travel to China, it is necessary to have a passport which is valid for at least six further months (from the day of the departure from China). You should request the visa yourself at your own cost.

The European Commission informs you that your accommodation and travel costs (Economy class) will be entirely covered. You will be contacted in the next days by American Express Business Travel concerning your accommodation and travel arrangements.

Should you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact: Teresa.condeco@ec.europa.eu
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For travel and accommodation arrangements, the contact person is: Frederic Swalus, American Express Meetings & Events, Tel: +32 (2) 727 24 80 | Fax: +32 (2) 727 24 89
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Yours sincerely,

Belén Bernaldo de Quirós
Head of Unit