JOINT STATEMENT
EU-Mongolia Joint Committee

Ulaanbaatar, 10 September 2013

1. The 15th Joint Committee Meeting between the European Union and Mongolia took place in Ulaanbaatar, on 10 September 2013.

The European Union’s Delegation was headed by H.E. Mr. Viorel Istoicaia-Budura, Managing Director and Head of Asia-Pacific Department of the European External Action Service. The Mongolian Delegation was headed by H.E. Mr. Chimed Saikhanbileg, Minister, Chief of the Cabinet Office of the Government of Mongolia.

(List of participants is enclosed).

2. Both sides noted with satisfaction that 2013 has marked important developments in the EU-Mongolia relations with the signature of the PCA in April and high-level exchanges. They re-affirmed the importance of further enhancing their relations and welcomed the positive developments in bilateral cooperation since the last Joint Committee held in Brussels in October 2011.

3. Both sides re-iterated that Mongolia is setting a positive example in the region as a country with a free multiparty system that has an independent media, an active and strong civil society, and a more market oriented economy. Moreover, the EU side reaffirmed its support for the notable efforts made by Mongolia in promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

4. Both sides acknowledged that the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement will open new, broad possibilities of cooperation between the European Union and its Member States and Mongolia in many different fields, including political dialogue, human rights, development, trade and investment, agriculture, people-to-people contacts, energy and climate change. Mongolian side expressed its hope for a swift conclusion of the PCA ratification procedure and suggested working out a plan of action for the implementation of the Agreement.
5. They briefed each other on recent political, socio-economic developments in European Union and Mongolia and exchanged views on foreign policy and regional issues, particularly on situation on Korean Peninsula, Central Asia and Middle East. They also discussed ways to enhance dialogue on human rights.

6. The Mongolian side informed the EU side on package of measures and policies taken to adopt European norms and standards. Both sides welcomed signing of the Financing Agreement in Support to the Modernisation of Mongolia’s Standardization System and agreed to continue its cooperation on promoting the exchange of information and sharing of experience with a view to introducing and implementing European norms and standards in Mongolia.

7. The Subcommittee on Trade and Investment met on 9 September 2013 in Ulaanbaatar and briefed the Joint Committee on the results of its discussions. The European Union and Mongolia agreed to work jointly at strengthening bilateral cooperation on trade and investment by focusing on five priority areas;

   - support the diversification of the Mongolian economy; in this regard the Mongolian side expressed its hope for the extension of the trade preferences granted to Mongolia under the GSP plus scheme until late 2015;

   - Mongolia expressed its keen interest in being granted the Market Economy Status, being aware of its importance, and sought support in expediting the review process;

   - create an environment that will attract foreign investment to Mongolia by setting up the right investment and regulatory framework for business in Mongolia, including on public procurement;

   - cooperate on raw materials, including on trade-related disciplines and regulatory aspects;

   - exchange views on priorities for trade and investment-related development cooperation.
8. The two sides discussed the state of play and the way forward in development cooperation, especially the programming for 2014-2020. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the results achieved so far and declared their commitment to the planned activities. Both sides agreed on the new initiative for 2013, the Economic Governance for Equitable Growth (EG4EG), which will aim to strengthen Mongolia's economic governance of revenues from its mineral wealth to promote sustainable development.

9. The EU side informed the Mongolian side about the ongoing Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) programming exercise for the period 2014-2020 and explained the rationale for its focus on two proposed sectors: 1) improved governance of revenues from extractive industries for inclusive and sustainable growth, and, 2) vocational training for better employment opportunities.

10. The EU side set out its development policy reform as defined in its "Agenda for Change" strategy. Future EU spending will concentrate on sectors which are key for long-term, inclusive and sustainable growth and on target countries that are in the greatest need of external support and where aid can make the most significant difference. In order to achieve this, EU aid will focus on sectors setting the foundations for inclusive and sustainable growth, including good governance, respect of human rights and democracy; gender equality, civil society and the fight against corruption, as well as education and support to a favourable business environment.

11. The Mongolian side presented the state of play of Mongolia's National Development Strategy and the achievements of the MDGs in Mongolia as well as the planned post 2015 Agenda. The EU reconfirmed its commitment to continue assisting Mongolia in implementing the National Development Strategy. The EU side also congratulated Mongolia for the MDG achievements made so far, particularly with regards to poverty reduction.

12. Both sides highlighted the importance of the visit of the Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr. Dacian Cioloș to Mongolia in July 2013, for defining common grounds for cooperation in agricultural sector and diversification of economy in Mongolia.
13. Both sides welcomed the first Seminar on Opportunities for EU-Mongolia Cooperation in Research and Innovation held on 9th September 2013 in Ulaanbaatar. The seminar presented to the Mongolian research community the possibilities for EU-Mongolia research and innovation collaboration offered by the new EU Framework Programme, Horizon 2020. Both sides agreed to actively engage in promoting EU-Mongolia research and innovation cooperation and in strengthening the research and innovation collaboration between European and Mongolian institutions.

14. Regular exchanges on areas of mutual interest for research and innovation cooperation, timely sharing of information on opportunities for the participation of European and Mongolian researchers and institutions in each side’s research projects and funding schemes, and the setting up of National Contact Points (NCPs) in Mongolia, are recognized by both sides as important elements to lay a solid foundation for a flourishing cooperation.

15. The Mongolian side underlined that an EU presence in Ulaanbaatar would give fresh impetus to expanding bilateral relations. Both sides recognized that such a presence is desirable and pledged to cooperate closely to create the necessary conditions.

16. Both sides agreed to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the European Union and Mongolia, which takes place next year in 2014.

17. They also agreed to hold the next Joint Committee Meeting in Brussels in the second half of 2014.

For the Delegation of the European Union
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