

## WT23 – The conception and management of public services

### Session 1

#### The Chinese vision

- Geographical, climatic and social disparities are enormous in China. Though Chinese megapoles are growing 70 % of the population is still rural.
- From the mid-nineties there has been a shift from a purely economical policy to a more social policy. Benefits from growth are not yet shared by the whole population (rural areas)
- The social unit of reference for users of services of general interest (SGI) in China is the family and not the individual.
- The family unit is brought forward in all SGI-contexts. Individuals, companies and collectivities contribute to welfare.
- The State has developed health and education policies. But those those sectors still present big problems.
- Housing in in private hands. There is a need for regulation in this sector.
- There is a growing questioning of the transfer of tax resources from the State towards local authorities in charge of SGI.

#### The European questions addressed to Chinese

- Isn't there a big gap between the environmental regulation and the practical application in the sphere of SGI?
- What are the levels of public authority in China?
- What is included in the sphere of SGI in China?
- Liberalisation yes or no and why?
- How does the public opinion respond to a transfer of resources from the richer provinces to the poorer?

- Who provides SGI? The state or the enterprises?
- Social policy :in China, what about universality principle in China ?

## WT23 – The conception and management of public services Session 2

### The European vision

- In spite of national diversity throughout Europe, common views of public services exist
- Necessity to clarify the difference between economic and non economic public services because of the consequences linked to this categorization
- Necessity to clarify the roles of public authorities at the different levels: European union, national level, local level
- A legal framework is asked to guarantee that the public services can fulfil their particular objectives of general interest – possibilities to have exemptions and provisions
- It is necessary to balance competitive market and efficiency with general interest and solidarity. Prevalence of solidarity over market rationales of efficiency.
- To point out the convergence of challenges : responsabilisation of Public authorities. - participation of citizens, local authorities, trade unions, NGOs
- The general interest, common welfare and common consciousness are common values widely shared by the assembly but difficult to formalize.

## The Chinese questions addressed to Europeans

- Which solutions did Europe arrive at for public services, for example in health services?
- A need for more detailed explanation of the European terminology with regard to public services, social services and economic services, in order to arrive at a common vocabulary:
- Why are we reverting to a debate with regard to public service provision and the role of the state similar to the one we had 100 years ago?
- Need to arrive at a common definition of universal public services.
- Need to define the common concepts that we share when it comes to defining what constitutes a public service, as our methods are probably culturally differing:.
- Do you draw lessons from the past?

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### Session 3

#### Similarities

- There's an important concern for the individual welfare
- We identify the same critical risk on financial and social dumping related to globalisation
- There's the same concern about the harmonization of social, infrastructures and economic standards, from East to the West of China as well as in the 27 UE members. So territorial and social cohesions are common challenges, with important consequences for SGI
- Both China and EU are concerned by sustainable development, natural resources and climate change, with important consequences for SGI
- Both China and EU are members of WTO and participate to GATS negotiations about services liberalisation
- Both China and EU need to finance infrastructures and SGI supply
- China conducts a lot of reforms since 30 years and UE is always in construction. So the situation is moving. SGI are in permanent reforms both in China and in UE

#### Differences

- China is 1 centralised state and EU an Union with 27 member states
- Each area have his history, his traditions, his culture
- The levels of governance are very different

- The competences of each level on SGI are not comparable
- The « unit » approach in China that can give some SIG responsibility or competence to private companies (housing, health protection, etc..)
- There is no example of a “European public service” providing services to the individuals
- China doesn’t comply to IMF
- Target n°1 of UE is to achieve the common market, then target 2 is about social cohesion
- In China there are no regulators or authorities in capacity to receive citizens demands and complaints about quality of SGI

## WT23 – The conception and management of public services Session 4

### How to enhance the dialogue between China and Europe ?

- All participants (Chinese as European) agree to continue and reinforce the dialogue
- All participants hope to don't wait the next Forum in two years
- We define how to do : to increment a database on SGI at Chinese, EU and national European countries level
- We choose to begin some sectors : telecom, electricity, education, health, water, transportation, public housing
- The data base will define what level is responsible for definition, supply, control, evaluation, ...
- To realize this work it was proposed as tool a website [www.forumsgi.eu](http://www.forumsgi.eu) using English as working language, with translations into French, Chinese and Romanian, and further may be others
- This website will not be in competition with general website of China-Europe Forum, but may be a complement
- This work needs some resources if it's possible