

**Memorandum of Understanding  
between  
the Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic  
and the State Administration for Market Regulation of  
the People's Republic of China  
on Food Safety Cooperation**

The Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic (the Ministry of Health) and the State Administration for Market Regulation of the People's Republic of China (SAMR), (hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Parties");

In view of the long-term friendly relationship between Italy and China,  
in order to further strengthen the cooperation within the area of food safety,  
have entered into the following Memorandum of Understanding:

**Article 1  
Purpose**

This Memorandum of Understanding establishes a cooperation platform between the Ministry of Health and SAMR in order to promote the exchange of knowledge in the field of food safety legislation and official control procedures.

**Article 2  
Area of Cooperation**

The Parties will cooperate and exchange experiences and information:

- on the development and implementation of food safety legislation based on the risk analyses principles;
- on organization and implementation of coordination and enforcement of official control procedures on food safety within the production, distribution and consumption process;
- on the setting up the food safety legislation in the two countries and,
- on other issues of mutual interest.

### **Article 3**

#### **Cooperation Mechanism and Modalities**

The Parties will cooperate in the following ways:

- organizing periodical meetings at senior official level to exchange information, identify priorities, plan future initiatives, seek funding resources, and review previous cooperation achievements;
- organizing an annual seminar to share experience, research findings, disseminate best practices and consider consequences of mutual interest related to new research findings and trade disruptions;
- establishing contacts at expert level; and
- identifying training needs and possibilities.

Both Parties will facilitate the cooperation and develop contacts at the appropriate level.

Both Parties will exchange information on developments on food legislation and inspection practices of importance to food safety and fair trade relations.

### **Article 4**

#### **Resources**

Each Party will fully cover all the expenses related to their representatives' visits to the other Country.

The activities foreseen under this Memorandum of Understanding will be implemented by the Parties according to their ordinary budget availability without any additional cost for the State budgets of the Italian Republic and the People's Republic of China.

### **Article 5**

#### **Confidentiality**

Each Party will not communicate information to the other Party if such communication is prohibited by that Party's national legislation or is incompatible with its interests.

Each Party will keep confidential the information provided by the other Party in accordance with its national laws and regulation.

**Article 6**  
**Applicable law**

This Memorandum of Understanding will be implemented in accordance with the Italian and Chinese legislations, as well as applicable international law and, as for the Italian Party, the obligations arising from Italy's membership of the European Union. This Memorandum of Understanding does not constitute an international agreement which may lead to obligations under international law. No provision of this Memorandum of Understanding is to be understood and performed as a legal obligation or commitment of the Parties.

**Article 7**  
**Differences of interpretation**

Any difference in the interpretation and/or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be settled amicably by means of direct consultations and negotiations between the Parties.

**Article 8**  
**Final Provisions**

This Memorandum takes effect on the date of signature and may be modified at any time by mutual consent between the Parties. Either Party may terminate this Memorandum by giving ninety (90) days' written notice to the other Party.

Done at Chengdu, China, on 25 September 2018, in two originals, each in the Italian, Chinese and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the text in English will prevail.

For the Ministry of Health of the  
Italian Republic

For the State Administration for  
Market Regulation of the People's  
Republic of China

*Ettore Sequi*

*Sun Meijun*

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