

ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DEL COMERCIO

G/TBT/N/CHN/140
28 de septiembre de 2005

(05-4298)

Comité de Obstáculos Técnicos al Comercio

Original: inglés

NOTIFICACIÓN

Se da traslado de la notificación siguiente de conformidad con el artículo 10.6.

1.	Miembro que notifica: <u>REPÚBLICA POPULAR CHINA</u> Si procede, nombre del gobierno local de que se trate (artículos 3.2 y 7.2):
2.	Organismo responsable: Ministerio de la Industria de la Información Nombre y dirección (incluidos los números de teléfono y de telefax, así como las direcciones de correo electrónico y sitios Web, en su caso) del organismo o autoridad encargado de la tramitación de observaciones sobre la notificación, en caso de que se trate de un organismo o autoridad diferente:
3.	Notificación hecha en virtud del artículo 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [X], 5.7.1 [], o en virtud de:
4.	Productos abarcados (partida del SA o de la NCCA cuando corresponda; en otro caso partida del arancel nacional. Podrá indicarse además, cuando proceda, el número de partida de la ICS): Aparatos electrónicos de radar, aparatos electrónicos de comunicación, aparatos de radio y televisión, ordenadores, aparatos electrodomésticos electrónicos, aparatos e instrumentos electrónicos de medición, productos electrónicos de uso especial, componentes electrónicos, aplicaciones electrónicas, material electrónico, así como todas sus partes, etc. (no se incluyen los productos de exportación).
5.	Título, número de páginas e idioma(s) del documento notificado: <i>Administration on the Control of Pollution Caused by Electronic Information Products</i> (Gestión del control de la contaminación causada por productos electrónicos de información) - 8 páginas, disponible en chino
6.	Descripción del contenido: De conformidad con las disposiciones de la <i>Ley de la República Popular China relativa al fomento de los procesos de producción limpios</i> , la <i>Ley de la República Popular China relativa a la prevención y el control de la contaminación ambiental causada por desechos sólidos</i> , la <i>Ley de la República Popular China relativa a la calidad de los productos</i> y otras leyes y reglamentos, se promulga el documento notificado a fin de controlar y reducir la contaminación ambiental causada por los desechos de los productos electrónicos de información, ahorrar recursos y promover el desarrollo sostenible de la industria de la información electrónica. <p style="text-align: center;">El documento notificado consta de un total de 4 Capítulos y 27 artículos.</p> <p>Con arreglo a lo dispuesto en el documento notificado, los productos electrónicos de información que se vendan en el mercado del territorio de China deberán cumplir las siguientes prescripciones: los materiales, tecnologías y procesos para la protección del medio ambiente se introducirán con arreglo a las normas nacionales o regionales; la vida</p>

útil inocua, los nombres y el contenido de las sustancias tóxicas y nocivas presentes en el producto, así como las indicaciones de reciclado, deberán indicarse claramente; en el embalaje deberán utilizarse materiales no tóxicos, inocuos, fácilmente reciclables y degradables, y deberán indicarse claramente los materiales empleados. En un catálogo auxiliar figurarán las restricciones y prohibiciones relativas al uso de sustancias tóxicas y nocivas en los productos electrónicos de información. Desde la fecha de entrada en vigor del documento notificado, los productos que figuren en el *Catálogo para el control de la contaminación causada por productos clave de información electrónica* no deberán contener plomo, mercurio, cadmio, cromo hexavalente, bifenilo polibromado (PBB), éter de bifenilo polibromado (PBDE) ni otras sustancias tóxicas y nocivas. En aquellos productos cuyas sustancias tóxicas y nocivas no puedan sustituirse en su totalidad, los contenidos de dichas sustancias no deberán superar el límite previsto por las normas nacionales o regionales pertinentes relativas al control de la contaminación causada por los productos electrónicos de información. El catálogo se actualizará anualmente en función de las condiciones reales y la evolución de la ciencia y la tecnología.

El Ministerio de la Industria de la Información, la Comisión Nacional de Desarrollo y Reforma, el Ministerio de Comercio, la Administración General de Aduanas, la Administración Estatal de Industria y Comercio, la Administración General de Supervisión de la Calidad, Inspección y Cuarentena, así como la Administración Estatal de Protección del Medio Ambiente, trabajarán conjuntamente para luchar contra la contaminación causada por los productos mencionados en el ámbito de sus respectivas competencias, y establecerán un mecanismo armonizado en caso de que sea necesario. Con arreglo a las leyes y reglamentos pertinentes y al documento notificado, la Administración General de Aduanas, la Administración Estatal de Industria y Comercio, la Administración General de Supervisión de la Calidad, Inspección y Cuarentena, así como otros departamentos administrativos del Consejo de Estado, penalizarán a los productores, vendedores e importadores que incumplan las prescripciones previstas en el documento notificado que entrará en vigor el 1° de julio de 2006.

7. Objetivo y razón de ser, incluida, cuando proceda, la índole de los problemas urgentes: Protección de la salud de las personas y del medio ambiente.

8. Documentos pertinentes: *Ley de la República Popular China relativa al fomento de los procesos de producción limpios, Ley de la República Popular China relativa a la prevención y el control de la contaminación ambiental causada por desechos sólidos, Ley de la República Popular China relativa a la calidad de los productos*

9. Fecha propuesta de adopción: 31 de diciembre de 2005
Fecha propuesta de entrada en vigor: 1° de julio de 2006

10. Fecha límite para la presentación de observaciones: 60 días contados a partir de la fecha de distribución por la Secretaría de la OMC

11. Textos disponibles en: Servicio nacional de información [X], o dirección, números de teléfono y de telefax, correo electrónico y dirección del sitio Web, en su caso, de otra institución:

Administration on the Control of Pollution Caused by Electronic Information Products

Chapter One General Provisions

Article 1 In order to control and reduce environmental pollution caused by discarded waste electronic information products, promote the production and sales of low-pollution electronic information products, effectuate clean production, improve the efficiency of resources utilization, protect the environment and human health, and promote the sustainable development of the electronic information industry, the *Administration on the Control of Pollution Caused by Electronic Information Products* (hereinafter referred to as the *Administration*) is hereby promulgated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Law of the People's Republic of China on Promotion of Clean Production*, the *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste*, the *Law of the People's Republic of China on Products Quality* and other laws and regulations.

Article 2 This Administration shall apply to the control and reduction of the pollution and other public nuisances caused by electronic information products to the environment during the production, sales and importation processes of electronic information products within the territory of the People's Republic of China, but shall not apply to the production of export-oriented products.

Article 3 Terms used in this *Administration* are defined as follows:

(I) Electronic information products refer to electronic radar products, electronic communication products, broadcast and television products, computer products, household electronic products, electronic measurement and instrument products, electronic products for special use, electronic component products, electronic application products, electronic material products, software products and all their parts manufactured by using electronic information technologies.

(II) Pollution of electronic information products refers to the damage, harm, waste or other bad effects caused by electronic information products on the environment, resources, human life and health and the safety of property because electronic information products contain toxic and harmful substances, or elements or the toxic and harmful substances or elements contained therein exceed national standards or sectoral standards.

(III) Control of pollution of electronic information products refers to the following measures taken to reduce or remove the toxic and harmful substances or elements contained in electronic information products:

1. technical measures adopted in the design and production processes, such as modifying the design plan, adjusting the technical flow, changing the materials used, and innovating the manufacturing modes;
2. measures adopted in the design, production, importation and sales processes, such as marking the names and levels of toxic and harmful substances or elements and the safe-use life of electronic information products;
3. measures adopted in the sales process, such as controlling the purchase channels, and not selling electronic information products that contain toxic and harmful substances or elements or whose levels of toxic and harmful substances or elements exceed national standards or

sectoral standards;

4. prohibiting the importation of electronic information products not meeting national or sectoral standards on toxic and harmful substances; and
5. other pollution control measures specified in this *Administration*.

(IV) Toxic and harmful substances or elements refer to the following substances or elements contained in electronic information products:

1. Lead;
2. Mercury;
3. Cadmium;
4. Hexavalent chromium;
5. Polybrominated biphenyls (PBB);
6. Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE); and
7. Other toxic and harmful substances or elements specified by the State.

(V) Safe-use life of electronic information products refers to the period of time in which the toxic and harmful substances or elements contained in electronic information products will not leak or change suddenly and the use of such electronic information products does not result in serious pollution of the environment or major damage to human life and property.

Article 4 The Ministry of Information Industry, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Commerce, the General Administration of Customs, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, and the State Environmental Protection Administration will work together in controlling the pollution caused by electronic information products within their respective competence, and establish a harmonized mechanism to solve major issues in controlling the pollution of electronic information products.

Article 5 The Ministry of Information Industry will work with relevant departments to formulate policies and measures within their respective competence to better control the pollution of electronic information products; spread technologies for controlling the pollution of electronic information products and efficient utilization of resources; encourage and support scientific research, technical development and international cooperation for controlling the pollution of electronic information products; and take charge of the fulfillment of duties for controlling the pollution of electronic information products.

Article 6 The Ministry of Information Industry may provide necessary policy support for organizations and individuals engaged in developing new eco-friendly electronic information products.

Article 7 The administrative departments of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities related to the information industry, development and reform, commerce, customs, industry and commerce, quality inspection, and environmental protection shall, within their respective competence, supervise the pollution control during the production, importation and sales processes of electronic information products, and establish a harmonized local mechanism when necessary.

Article 8 The competent authorities on the information industry of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities shall commend and award organizations and individuals with noticeable achievements in controlling the pollution of electronic information products and related activities.

Chapter Two Control of Pollution of Electronic Information Products

Article 9 Designers of electronic information products shall use non-toxic and harmless substances or low-toxin, low-harm, readily degradable and recyclable materials in designing electronic information products on the precondition of meeting the technical requirements while meeting the national or sectoral standards on the control of toxic and harmful substances in electronic information products.

Article 10 Manufacturers of electronic information products shall, in producing or manufacturing electronic information products, adopt resource-efficient, recyclable and eco-friendly materials, technologies and techniques in accordance with the national or sectoral standards on the control of toxic and harmful substances in electronic information products.

Article 11 Producers and importers of electronic information products shall mark the safe-use life of, and provide detailed instructions on, the electronic information products produced or imported.

The style and mode for marking the safe-use life shall be specified by the Ministry of Information Industry and other related government departments.

The safe-use life of electronic information products may be determined by the producers and importers of electronic information products.

The relevant industry organizations may provide guidelines about the safe-use life of electronic information products based on the technological developments of the industry.

Article 12 The Ministry of Information Industry encourages the relevant industry organizations to report their guidelines about the safe-use life of electronic information products to the Ministry of Information Industry.

Article 13 Electronic information products imported by the importers shall meet the national or sectoral standards on the control of toxic and harmful substances in electronic information products.

Electronic information products imported by the producers as supporting facilities for production shall meet the national or sectoral standards on the control of toxic and harmful substances in electronic information products, and the producers shall mark the place of origin on the imported electronic information products. If direct marking is difficult due to restrictions of volumes and functions, the information about the place of origin shall be provided on the packages or in product instructions.

Article 14 Producers and importers of electronic information products shall mark the toxic and harmful parts of electronic information products to be put on the market, specifying the names and levels of the toxic and harmful substances and whether they are recyclable; if direct marking is difficult due to restrictions of volumes and functions, such information shall be provided on the packages or in product instructions.

The marking style and mode shall be specified and issued by the Ministry of Information Industry and other related government departments.

Article 15 Producers and importers of electronic information products shall use non-toxic, harmless, readily degradable and recyclable materials as the packaging materials for electronic information products in accordance with the national or sectoral standards on the control of toxic and harmful substances in electronic information products.

Producers and importers of electronic information products shall mark the names of materials

on the packages; if direct marking is difficult due to restrictions of volumes and external surfaces, such information shall be provided in product instructions.

Article 16 Sellers of electronic information products shall control the purchase channels and not sell any electronic information products whose levels of toxic and harmful substances exceed the national standards or sectoral standards on the control of toxic and harmful substances in electronic information products.

Article 17 The Ministry of Information Industry shall work with the State Environmental Protection Administration to formulate the sectoral standards on the control of toxic and harmful substances in electronic information products.

The Ministry of Information Industry and Standardization Administration of China shall draft national standards on the control of toxic and harmful substances in electronic information products.

Article 18 Electronic information products delivered, sold, imported or used in any other business activities shall be subject to mandatory certification by the government certification and supervision agency.

Imported electronic information products shall be subject to certification and delivery inspection by the entry-exit inspection and quarantine agency. The Customs shall inspect and let pass the products according to the cargo clearance certificates issued by the entry-exit inspection and quarantine agency.

Article 19 The Ministry of Information Industry shall work with the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Commerce, the General Administration of Customs, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, the State Environmental Protection Administration to adjust the Catalogue for Pollution Control in Key Electronic Information Products (hereinafter referred to as the Catalogue).

The Catalogue consists of categories of electronic information products, types of toxic and harmful substances restricted for use and the time for restricted use, and shall be adjusted annually according to the actual conditions and the development of science and technology.

Article 20 Electronic information products listed in the Catalogue shall not only comply with the relevant regulations in this *Administration* on the pollution control of electronic information products but also meet the requirements for the pollution control of key electronic information products specified in the Catalogue.

Electronic information products not listed in the Catalogue shall comply with the relevant regulations in this *Administration* on the pollution control of electronic information products.

Article 21 According to the actual conditions of industry development, the Ministry of Information Industry shall work with the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Commerce, the General Administration of Customs, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, and the State Environmental Protection Administration to issue the deadline for implementing the regulations that the electronic information products listed in the Catalogue shall not contain toxic and harmful substances.

Chapter Three Penalty Rules

Article 22 Designers, producers, sellers and importers of electronic information products who violate this *Administration* in any of the following circumstances shall be penalized by the

General Administration of Customs, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, the State Environmental Protection Administration and other administrative departments within their respective competence:

(I) Designers of electronic information products violate Article 9 of this *Administration* and the design plans adopted do not meet the national or sectoral standards on the control of toxic and harmful substances in electronic information products;

(II) Producers of electronic information products violate Article 10 of this *Administration* and the materials, technologies and techniques used do not meet the national or sectoral standards on the control of toxic and harmful substances in electronic information products;

(III) Importers of electronic information products violate Article 13 of this *Administration* and the electronic information products imported do not meet the national or sectoral standards on the control of toxic and harmful substances in electronic information products;

(IV) Producers and designers of electronic information products violate Paragraph 1 of Article 15 of this *Administration*, and the packaging materials made or used for the electronic information products do not meet the national or sectoral standards on the control of toxic and harmful substances in electronic information products;

(V) Sellers of electronic information products violate Article 16 of this *Administration*, and sell electronic information products whose levels of toxic and harmful substances do not meet the national or sectoral standards on the control of toxic and harmful substances in electronic information products; and

(VI) Designers, producers, importers and sellers of electronic information products violate Article 21 of this *Administration*, and the electronic information products designed, produced, imported or sold contain toxic and harmful substances or the toxic and harmful substances contained therein exceed the national or sectoral standards on the control of toxic and harmful substances in electronic information products;

Article 23 Designers, producers, sellers and importers of electronic information products who violate this *Administration* in any of the following circumstances shall be penalized by the General Administration of Customs, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, the State Environmental Protection Administration and other administrative departments within their respective competence:

(I) Producers and importers of electronic information products violate Article 11 of this *Administration* and do not mark in an easily recognizable manner the safe-use life of electronic information products;

(II) Producers or importers of electronic information products violate Article 14 of this *Administration* and do not mark in an easily recognizable manner the names and levels of the toxic and harmful substances in the electronic information products and whether they are recyclable; and

(III) Producers and importers of electronic information products violate Paragraph 2 of Article 15 of this *Administration* and do not mark in an easily recognizable manner the components of the packaging materials for the electronic information products.

Article 24 Government workers who abuse their powers, play favoritism, connive at or cover up conducts incompliant with this *Administration*, or help violators of this *Administration*

escape from punishment, shall be admonished, given a demerit record or dismissed from public service; if they violate the criminal law, they shall be investigated for criminal responsibilities.

Chapter Four Supplementary Rules

Article 25 Any natural person, legal person or any other organization shall have the right to report or prosecute any designer, producer, importer or seller causing pollution with their electronic information products to the Ministry of Information Industry or the competent authorities on the information industry of the respective province, autonomous region or municipality.

Article 26 This *Administration* shall be subject to the interpretation of the Ministry of Information Industry, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Commerce, the General Administration of Customs, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, and the State Environmental Protection Administration.

Article 27 This *Administration* will come into effect from 1 July 2006

COMMENTS FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES RELATING TO NOTIFICATION

G/TBT/N/CHN/140

“ADMINISTRATION ON THE CONTROL OF POLLUTION CAUSED BY ELECTRONIC INFORMATION PRODUCTS”

The European Communities (EC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft text notified by China relating to the “Administration on the Control of Pollution caused by Electronic Information Products” and would like to raise the following points.

I. General comments:

The object of the notified text is said to be the promulgation of the “Administration on the Control of Pollution Caused by Electronic Information Products” (ACPEIP). It is not fully clear from the text what the exact nature of the concept “administration” in this envisaged decision will be. Usually, an administration is referred to as being established or founded. The details of the text, however, give the impression that the subject matter are policy principles of pollution control rather than rules governing the functioning of an administration. The notified text foresees (Article 26) that ACPEIP will be subject to the interpretation of the Ministry of Information Industry, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Commerce, the General Administration of Customs, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, and the State Environmental Protection Administration. It is not clear whether ACPEIP will be an administration in its own right or a co-ordination project among existing administrations. The EC would welcome a clarification by China on the exact nature and remit of the ACPEIP.

ACPEIP's duties and tasks are formulated in general terms, setting out broad policy principles for future actions against pollution caused by electronic products. The decision does not appear to have the concreteness of an implementing regulation with respect to the exact product coverage, compliance instruments, administrative routines, penalties, etc. The said “Administration” will come into effect on 1 July 2006. The EU would like to know whether exporters to China of electronic products and their Chinese importers and distributors will incur from that date directly in obligations as a result of the establishment of that administration or whether the operational measures implementing the obligations mentioned in the notified text are planned to be approved and come into force at a later date. If the latter would be the case, China's beforehand commitment to notify in due time to the WTO TBT Committee those implementing measures would be welcome.

The legislation implementing ACPEIP would appear to be similar to European Directive 2002/95/EC on the restriction of the use of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS). However, it appears that many elements, such as the list of hazardous substances, limit values, testing methods, exemptions and enforcement are still missing in the proposed scheme.

The Chinese draft seems also to reflect key aspects of the European Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). However, many elements like scope, marking and reporting differ from the WEEE directive and other major elements like take-back obligation, financing, targets for collection and targets for recycling/recovery are completely missing.

As the accent lies more on the flow of products (design, production, import, sales), the draft is in the view of the EC to be considered less as policy on waste. Furthermore, a number of additional ACPEIP tasks (control mechanism, marking specifications, drafting of standards, the catalogue, setting deadlines, penalties) are left to various government bodies which leads to a lack of clarity as to the real extent of the initiative.

II. Specific comments:

1. There is no clear list of the products that will be affected: Article 3(I) includes, among others, “electronic products for special use”. The EC would like to know which products are meant by this category. Article 19 refers to a “Catalogue for Pollution Control in Key Electronic Information Products” (hereinafter “Catalogue”) to be established. Article 20 states that the products listed in this Catalogue shall not only comply with the relevant regulations of the notified “Administration” but also meet the requirements specified in the Catalogue itself. It is not clear which products will be affected by which requirements (on control of substances? on recyclability - Art. 14? on marking? on packaging materials – Art. 15?)
2. The toxic and harmful substances covered by the notified text are the same as in the RoHS Directive except for Article 3(IV) point 7 of the proposed legislation that covers “Other toxic and harmful substances or elements specified by the State”. The EC would be grateful if the Chinese authorities could clarify the meaning of this provision as regards whether the substances are still to be defined and will be introduced into the legislation at a later stage or whether this clause is rather an open entry in the regulation.
3. The proposed decision does not contain maximum concentration values for the substances. These values were introduced in the RoHS Directive by Commission Decision 2005/618/EC amending Directive 2002/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council for the purpose of establishing the maximum concentration values for certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment. It is important to know how and when these limits will be introduced in the Chinese legislation and how they will appear (identical to, less or more strict than EU ones).
4. The proposed Chinese decision does not contain any exemptions for applications of the hazardous substances. Recently, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ) submitted its comments in response to a Commission’s stakeholder consultation on RoHS exemptions available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/weee_index.htm. In its comments the Chinese government expressed support for some exemptions justified by the lack of alternatives. The EC would like to know how the issue of exemptions is or will be considered in the legislation implementing pollution control of electronic products.
5. Article 3(V) of the proposed decision refers to “safe-use life of electronic information products”. The EC considers that neither the meaning nor the practical details of this provision are sufficiently clear and would like to invite the Chinese authorities to clarify it.

6. Since Article 3(II) regarding pollution and Article 3(V) regarding the “safe-use life” embrace also the waste phase, it is important to know to what extent the measures like e.g. “developing standards” (cfr. Article 17) will affect treatment aspects (comparable to Article 6 and Annex II of the WEEE Directive) or for the production phase the conditions for the production plants (comparable to Directive 96/61/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control – IPPC-).
7. Several provisions of the notified text, such as Article 3(III) points 3-4; Articles 9, 13, 15 and 17, make reference to the use of national or sectoral standards, the requirements of which shall be complied with. However, no reference is made to international standards. Since the products covered by this measure are global in their nature, international standards should be the preferred choice as basis for regulation as stated in Article 2.4 of the TBT Agreement. There are a number of international standards and guides already prepared related to environmental aspects of the design of products. Where such standards are lacking, New Work Item Proposals in IEC should be suggested rather than using national standards that could result in trade barriers.

In this context the EC would like to stress that openness in standardisation is essential. Due to the great impact on the globally designed and manufactured products arising from this notified draft Administration, this principle is particularly valid in the present case. Where reliance is on national standardisation, foreign manufacturers should have the possibility to participate on equal terms via their national representatives.

8. Article 4 of the notified text refers to the “establishment of a harmonised mechanism to solve major issues in controlling the pollution of electronic information products”. It is not clear if that mechanism will concern enforcement of the legislation or other issues. The Chinese authorities are invited to clarify what is meant by it.
9. Article 18 of the notified text provides for a mandatory certification by the government certification and supervision agency. The EC would like to enquire about the type of certification requested, in particular whether self-declaration by the manufacturer would be allowed or whether the certification system will be the same as the safety certification required by the Chinese CCC marking. In the latter case, the Chinese authorities are invited to specify which authority/notified body will deliver the certificate. In this context the EC underlines that unnecessary burdens and overlapping requirements should not be imposed on EU exports in order to respect the principle that conformity assessment procedures shall not be more trade-restrictive than necessary to fulfil a legitimate objective (Article 5.1.2 TBT Agreement).
10. Moreover, the EC would like to know the meaning of the deadline to be determined according to Article 21 regarding the implementation of the regulations concerning the prohibition of toxic and harmful substances in products listed in the Catalogue. The relationship of this specific deadline with the date of entry into force of ACPEIP (1 July 2006) provided by Article 27 should also be clarified.

For the above reasons, the EC considers that some aspects of the notified draft Administration could constitute breaches of Articles 2.2 and 2.4 of the TBT Agreement.

The European Communities appreciates the opportunity to comment on this notification and would be grateful if the Chinese authorities could provide the clarifications requested above and take the above comments into account.
