

Administrative Arrangement

Between

**The Taipei Representative Office in the European Union and
Belgium**

and

**The Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship and SMEs of the European Commission**

on

Cluster Cooperation

The Taipei Representative Office in the European Union and Belgium (TRO) and the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs of the European Commission (DG GROWTH) (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Sides"), recognise the importance of international trade, investment and research and development and that innovation and technological development has played a significant role in boosting economic growth, creating jobs and improving societal welfare in Taiwan and the European Union.

The Sides emphasise that clusters, as geographic concentrations of groups of firms, related industries, and other economic and innovation actors that cooperate with each other and have developed specialised expertise and common needs for talent, technology, services, resources and infrastructure, are key drivers of growth and innovation in local, regional and national economies and are effective springboards for accelerating the internationalisation of small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs).

It is further recalled that the activities under this Administrative Arrangement are intended to build upon the cooperation on industrial policy established between the two Sides. These activities should be put into practice for the mutual benefit of organisations including, but not limited to, entrepreneurs, companies, start-ups, government institutes and agencies, research institutes, universities and other educational institutions, trade and industry associations, that are involved in clusters in Taiwan and the European Union.

I. PURPOSE

The Sides intend to collaborate in order to facilitate linkages between clusters in Taiwan and the European Union and to exchange best practices in fields of mutual interest in order to promote growth and job creation through increased trade, investment, research and innovation partnerships.

II. SIDES

The Sides in this Administrative Arrangement are as follows:

- TRO, whose mission includes promoting and developing relations with the EU.
- DG GROWTH, whose mission includes strengthening the industrial base in Europe; ensuring an open internal market for goods and services in the EU; encouraging the growth of SMEs and promoting an entrepreneurial culture; promoting industrial innovation to generate new sources of growth; and supporting the internationalisation of EU SMEs.

III. COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

The Sides intend to undertake the following activities:

- Promote bilateral cooperation between clusters from Taiwan and the European Union and organise conferences, local events and meetings with local authorities, cluster organisations and cluster firms as an instrument for initiating contacts and identifying and facilitating opportunities for cooperation between industrial and innovation partners in Taiwan and the European Union;

- Include and disseminate information on European cluster organisations and activities on relevant websites in Taiwan and include and disseminate information

- Each Side, to the extent provided for by its governing laws and regulations, intends to protect from disclosure personal, proprietary and business confidential information.
- The activities of the Sides undertaken pursuant to this Administrative Arrangement are contingent on the availability of funds and other resources, and subject to the laws, regulations, and internal policies that govern each of them.
- Each Side intends to bear its own costs and expenditures that might be incurred in the course of implementing this Administrative Arrangement.

V. OTHER PROVISIONS

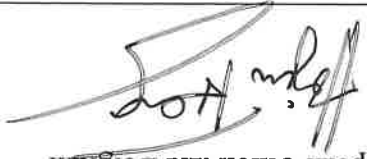
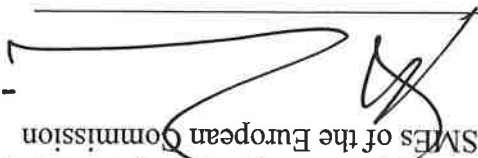
The Sides intend to appoint a number of contact persons to be responsible for coordinating matters relating to this Administrative Arrangement. It is intended that these contact persons consult on a regular basis on the practical details of facilitating cooperation as intended through this Administrative Arrangement. It is envisaged that the contact persons would also be responsible for consulting and engaging with stakeholders as needed and appropriate and for reporting in the framework of other related fora and initiatives where adequate.

IV. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

- Exchange best practices on mutually beneficial topics on clusters of interest to both Participants, such as cluster mapping, cluster collaboration, cluster internationalisation, and small- and medium-size enterprises' access to global markets through clusters, drawing upon best practices developed in other related fora and initiatives.
- Disseminate information on Participants' funding programmes that support international cluster cooperation activities for the benefit of clusters in Taiwan and the EU;
- Encourage and facilitate the partnering between cluster organisations and cluster firms, in particular small- and medium-size enterprises, from Taiwan and the European Union, through the provision of information, and in liaison with EU Member States, the facilitation of contacts between cluster organisations and/or the organisation of international cluster missions (outgoing and incoming missions) offering matchmaking opportunities in strategic areas of mutual interest;
- Regularly update relevant information about cluster developments in the European Union and Taiwan on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform and relevant websites in Taiwan, with specific sections publishing expressions of interest for cooperation;
- Link the European Cluster Collaboration Platform to relevant websites in Taiwan and link relevant websites in Taiwan to the European Cluster Collaboration Platform;
- on cluster or related organisations and activities in Taiwan on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform website;

- This Administrative Arrangement is not intended to be binding or create any legal rights or financial or other obligations under international or national law.

VI. SIGNED in duplicate in the English language

<p>For the Taipei Representative Office in the European Union and Belgium</p>  <p>Tseng, Ho-Jen, Representative</p> <p>Date 8 June 2018</p> <p>Place Brussels</p>	<p>For the Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs of the European Commission</p>  <p>Antti Peltomäki, Deputy Director General</p> <p>Date 7 June 2018</p> <p>Place Taipei</p>
---	--