



Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

SIDE EVENT

Following up on the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E): sharing knowledge and good practices

Wednesday, 25 January 2017 from 13:15 – 14:45

In Room VII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

22nd Session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP-22)

ORGANIZING PARTNERS: the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP), with support from the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment.

CHAIR: Ms. Martine ROHN-BROSSARD, Deputy Head of International Affairs Division, Head of Europe, Trade and Development section, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, and CEP Bureau member.

ABOUT: At the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016), Ministers endorsed the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy, which provides a common vision and objectives for the green transition in the region. At the Conference, Ministers also launched the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) that consists of voluntary commitments to operationalize the Strategic Framework until 2030. At present, 113 commitments were submitted by 24 countries and 12 organizations to take concrete actions for moving towards greener and more inclusive economic patterns. BIG-E remains open for more stakeholders to join.

This side event will provide an overview of actions committed by countries and organizations under the BIG-E and will discuss the progress some countries and organizations have made since Batumi, including opportunities and challenges they have so far encountered. It will introduce participants to the BIG-E database on the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP), along with the opportunities it offers to promote and disseminate the Strategic Framework and the BIG-E in the pan-European region and beyond.

The event will conclude with a discussion of how to support countries in achieving their BIG-E commitments, which will include the presentation of the mapping of organizations' and donors' activities on green economy in the region.

The event is open to Member States and other stakeholders and an interactive Q&A session will offer the opportunity to gain insights and suggestions.

PROGRAMME:

- The BIG-E: overview of actions committed by countries and organizations under the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy, by UN Environment and UNECE (8 min)
- Implementing the BIG-E commitments: interactive discussion of up to six cases of countries/organizations' implementation of BIG-E commitments, moderated by UN Environment Head of Research & Partnership Unit, who will also give a key note introduction (30 min)

Q&A (15 min)

- How to get the BIG-E known more widely: the BIG-E database on the GGKP Platform (5 min) - a live demo on the GGKP website by the Head of GGKP (5 min)
- How to support countries and organizations in achieving their BIG-E commitments? - a presentation of the RCM and OECD surveys, by UNECE and OECD (8 min) + a discussion about the possible continuation of the team of experts that was convened for the preparation of the GESF and BIG-E along with its possible objective and tasks, lead by the Chair (7 min)

Q&A (15 min)

SPEAKERS:

- Representatives Countries, Organizations, NGOs willing to share their experience with the implementation of BIG-E commitments:
 - **Marina Philipuyk**, Head of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Belarus
 - **Nino Tkhilava**, Head of Department of Environmental Policy and International Relations, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
 - **Miklós Marton**, Councillor, Department of Environmental Development, Development Coordination and Strategic Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary
 - **Hermien Busschbach**, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, The Netherlands
 - **Ann-Sofi Israelson**, Senior adviser, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
 - **Paolo Naldini**, Director, Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto.
- Fulai Sheng, Head of the Economic Research Unit, UN Environment
- Benjamin Simmons, Head, Green Growth Knowledge Platform
- Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, Green Action Programme Task Force, OECD Environment Directorate
- Rie Tsutsumi, Regional Coordinator for Climate Change and Resource Efficiency, UN Environment, Europe Office
- Maria Teresa Pisani, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE

Light lunch with drinks and sandwiches will be offered.