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UNITED NATIONS

COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE  
POUR L'EUROPEЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ  
КОМИССИЯECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on  
Access to Information, Public Participation  
in Decision-making and Access to Justice  
in Environmental Matters

### Task Force on Access to Information

#### First meeting

Geneva, 7 and 8 February 2013

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

#### International Workshop

## Environmental information on products: making public access work

### Annotated programme of the workshop

To be held in Salle VIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 4.30pm on Thursday, 7 February 2013

#### Thursday, 7 February 2013

4.30 – 4.35 pm            Opening remarks

Opening remarks by the Chair of the Task Force on Access to Information

4.35 – 6.00 pm            **Session 1: Setting the scene: benefits of, needs for and challenges of improving access to product information**

The session will include speakers from a government, the public and private sector, followed by a discussion on benefits of, needs for and challenges of improving access to environmental information with regard to products.

*Panel of speakers:*

- *Ms. Nino Gokheshvili, Ministry of Environment Protection, Georgia*
- *Mr. Vito Buonsante, ClientEarth*
- *Ms. Liesbeth Timmermans, European Chemical Industry Council*

#### Friday, 8 February 2013

9.30 – 10.30 am            **Session 2: Sufficiency of environmental information on products: identifying and addressing information needs**

The session will include presentations of case studies on how to address low public awareness and information gaps to promote informed environmental choices of consumers in various economic sectors.

*Panel of speakers:*

- *Mr. Kevin Munn, Chemicals Branch, DTIE, United Nations Environment Programme*
- *Mr. Oleg Pecheniuk, NGO "Independent Ecological Expertise", Kyrgyzstan*
- *Ms. Lidia Astanina, "Greenwomen" Analytical Environmental Agency, Kazakhstan*
- *Ms. Elisabeth Ruffinengo, NGO "Women in Europe for a Common Future"*

The participants will be invited to ask questions and share their experience in identifying and addressing information needs of the public with regard to the environmental information on products.

**10.30 – 11.30 am      Session 3: Smart means of informing the public**

The session aims at sharing experiences in establishing eco-labelling framework and promoting other means of informing the public of the environmental impact of products.

*Panel of speakers:*

- *Mr. Pavel Misiga, European Commission, European Union*
- *Ms. Olga Panteleeva, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Belarus*
- *Ms. Kristina Saarinen, Environment Institute SYKE, Finland*

The participants will be invited to ask questions and share their experiences in establishing eco-labelling framework and promoting other means of informing the public of the environmental impact of products.

**11.30 – 12.30 am      Session 4: Accessibility of information on potential environmental risks in new products**

The session aims at identifying possible needs and gaps in accessibility of information on potential environmental risks in new products.

*Panel of speakers:*

- *Mr. Hirofumi Aizawa, Environment, Health and Safety Division, Environment Directorate, OECD*
- *Ms. Kristina Saarinen, Environment Institute SYKE, Finland*
- *Mr. David Azoulay, Center for International Environmental Law*
- *Ms. Tatiana Santos, European Environmental Bureau*

**2.30 – 3.50 pm      Session 5: The way forward: identification of priorities**

The participants will be split in three groups to discuss possible ways of improving accessibility to environmental information on products at the national level and possible priorities for future work of the Task Force in this area.

The outcomes of the group discussions will be presented at the plenary (*re-starting at 3.20 pm*) by the *rapporteurs* to be chosen in each group.

**3.50 – 4.00 pm      Summing up by the Chair of the Task Force on Access to Information**