

Minutes of the Constitutive meeting

of the Regional Working Group on Environment, held in Podgorica, Montenegro on May 14, 2015

This meeting was convened by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), as a follow up action of the initiative of the RCC Secretary General requesting participating economies to nominate members of the Regional Working Group on Environment. This meeting was held in the Hotel “Podgorica”, in Podgorica Montenegro on May 14, 2015.

List of participants and the final agenda to this meeting are appended to this document in Annexes 1 and 2.

The meeting was opened at 10:00 AM with Ms. VOJNOVIC (Montenegro) and Mr. ARIFAGIC (RCC) as co-chairs.

Opening remarks were given by Ms. VOJNOVIC (Montenegro) and Mr. ARIFAGIC (RCC).

Mr. SUSIC (RCC) presented the basic information on the Regional Program on Environment of the South East Europe 2020 Strategy – Job and Prosperity in a European Perspective (SEE 2020).

After receiving consent from the members, Mr. Srdjan Susic read out the draft Rules of Procedure of the Regional Working Group on Environment under South East Europe 2020 Strategy, in order to accommodate interventions. The Final text of this document was agreed on the spot and was unanimously adopted by a majority vote of the members present. The final adopted text of the Rules and Procedures is provided in Annex 3.

Following the provisions of the Rules of Procedure, representative of Montenegro was nominated as the co-chair of the of the Regional Working Group on Environment for the period 14 May 2015 to 13 May 2016.

The decision was taken to organize the next meeting of the Regional Working Group on Environment in Montenegro in October 2015.

Representatives of organizations serving as the SEE 2020 Regional Dimension Coordinators presented regional initiatives relevant for the implementation of the Regional Programme on Dimension J - Environment of SEE 2020.

Ms. KOZHUHAROVA (REC) delivered presentations “Overview of the Regional Programme on Dimension J - Environment of SEE 2020” and Green Growth Knowledge Partnership.

Ms. SPASOVSKA (SWG RRD) delivered the presentation “Rural Development through Natural Resource Management”.

Mr. FALUTSOS (GWP Med) delivered the presentation “Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in support of Green Growth: Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystem Nexus”.

Members endorsed and adopted, by a consensual decision, the Regional Programme on Dimension J - Environment of SEE 2020 with its constitutive components:

- A. Climate change adaptation related issues are addressed through the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership Programme (GGKPP)
- B. The water, land, energy and ecosystems interrelated management in support of Green Growth is addressed through the Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystem Nexus (WEFEN)
- C. Rural areas management is addressed through the Rural Development via Natural Resource Management (RDNRM)

The following members spoke in relation to the agenda point concerning interventions from participating governments:

Ms. MURIC (Serbia) expressed their support and commitment to implementation of SEE and the Regional Programme on Environment, stressing the need for the continued dialogue and coordination of actions in the sector of environment in SEE.

Ms. MARIKA (Albania) stated that members received a lot of relevant information at this meeting and welcomed project ideas coming from SEE 2020 Dimension J –Environment RDCs. Interventions in the forestry sector concerning illegal logging, combating de-forestation and assessing effects of decentralization in this sector, are seen as vital.

Ms. MARINOVIC (Montenegro) commended the efforts of RCC in the Dimension J-Environment and stated that Montenegro had recently adopted their National Plan of SEE 2020 Implementation where environment plays an important role. Establishing the Regional Working Group as a coordinating mechanism for this sector in SEE is seen as important and relevant.

Mr. MALSIU (Kosovo*) expressed his gratitude for inviting Kosovo* to participate this important regional process, stating their support to the adopted Regional Programme on Environment as a promising document essential for shaping up environmental coordination processes in SEE.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.