

Regional Western Balkans Coordination Meeting



8 February 2024, Pristina

Organized by the Regional Cooperation Council

With the in-kind support of the EU4Green Project and WB6 Chamber Investment Forum

At the EU-Western Balkans Summit held on 10 November 2020 in Sofia, the Western Balkans (WB) leaders endorsed the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB), and subsequently the GAWB Action Plan, at the Brdo pri Kranju Summit in October 2021. The GAWB represents a transformative framework for growth and sustainable development for the WB, leaping from a traditional economic model to a sustainable economy, in line with the European Green Deal's key elements and ambition to become climate-neutral continent by 2050.

The Regional Western Balkans Coordination Meeting aims to convene WB stakeholders, including environmental and financial sectors, to explore and identify needs and priorities for the region in the implementation of the GAWB AP, present funding gaps, capitalize on the available support, explore possibilities of aligning funding sources with identified requirements, and contributing to the expansion of green financing. The February 2024 meeting will focus on the Circular Economy (CE) pillar of the GAWB.

Scaling up the CE from front-runners to the mainstream economic players will make a decisive contribution to achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and decoupling economic growth from resource use, while ensuring the long- term competitiveness of the WB and leaving no one behind.

For businesses and industrial sector, working together on creating the framework for sustainable products will provide new opportunities in the WB, EU and beyond. This progressive, yet irreversible transition to a sustainable economic system is an indispensable part of the EU Green Deal, the GAWB AP, the CRM's Regional Industrial Area, as well as the EU Industrial Strategy.

Therefore, the Western Balkans Coordination Meeting will put additional emphasis on addressing challenges and opportunities of implementing CE principles while enhancing coordination among donors, businesses, industrial sector and WB economies in fostering sustainable development.

The WB Coordination Meeting will deliver three main outputs:

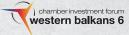
- 1. Enhanced and Harmonized Donor Support Framework: The WB Coordination Meeting will encourage coordination and alignment of financial support from donor community on the GAWB AP CE Pillar to accelerate the progress towards greening the economies in the Western Balkans;
- 2. Improved Regional Knowledge Sharing on CE Transition: The WB Coordination Meeting will provide a regional platform for exchanging of experiences, best practices, lessons, insights and technical expertise necessary for stakeholders to align efforts, learn from each other, and improve the impact of their sustainability related policies and programmes directed on the implementation of the GAWB AP CE Pillar and CRM Regional Industrial Area/CE value chains.
- 3. Strengthened and Formalized Regional Cooperation: The WB Coordination Meeting aims to facilitate and formalize dialogue and collaboration among Western Balkans and relevant stakeholders on advancing the CE agenda through establishing a Regional Green and Circular Economy Stakeholders Platform



RegionalCooperationCouncil







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	Programme
09.30 - 09:45	Welcoming remarks
	Ms. Majlinda BREGU, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council
	Ms. Valentina SUPERTI , Director for Western Balkans, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
	Mr. Lulzim RAFUNA, President of WB6 CIF Management Board
09.45 – 10:45	High level Panel Discussion: Financial Horizon: Advancing the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and the Path Forward in the GAWB Action Plan Implementation
	Mr. Liburn ALIU, Minister of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Pristina
	Ms. Kaja SHUKOVA, Minister of the Environment and Physical Planning, Skopje
	Ms. Almira XHEMBULLA, Deputy Minister of Tourism and Environment, Tirana
	Mr. Nenad VITOMIROVIC , Secretary of State, Ministry of Tourism, Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development, Podgorica
10.45 - 11:15	Coffee break
11.15 – 12:15	Unlocking Investment Potential: Exploring IFIs' Financing Programs, Technical Assistance and Learning Opportunities/ Q&A Session
	Moderator: Ms. Olga ZHMINKO , Senior Expert Green Finance, Green Finance Team, EU4Green
	Mr. Johannes WIDMANN, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank
	Mr. Visar PERANI, International Finance Corporation, Pristina
	Ms. Ganimete HURUGLICA, Deputy Director, KfW, Pristina
	Ms. Mélanie MALINVAUD, Project Officer, AFD, Western Balkans Regional Office
	Ms. Milena MARTINELLI POPOVIC, Principal, Green Economy and Climate Action, EBRD
	Intervention: Mr. Alessandro BIANCARDI , Deputy Head of Cooperation, EU Office, Pristina

12.15 – 13:30	Exploring Stakeholder Platforms, Business Partnerships, and EU Practice in the Green and Circular Economy: A Discussion on the Industry Transition of the Western Balkans to Circular Economy/Q&A Session
	Moderator: Ms. Kristina KUZESKA- WB6 CIF Energy Association Manager, Economic Chamber, Skopje
	Mr. Radman SELMIC - Advisor to the President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Belgrade
	Ms. Milena RMUS - Secretary of Coordinating Board for Energy Efficiency and Environment Protection, Chamber of Economy, Podgorica
	Ms. Milana RIKANOVIC, UN Women, Head of Office, Belgrade
	Ms. Ladeja GODINA KOŠIR, Circular Change, European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform
	Mr. Filip CUBELA, Head of Sustainable Development Department, Aluminij Industries
	Mr. Adriatik BYTYQI, Director, TIKI home
	Interventions:
	Ms. Enka RUSHANI, CEO, AIBA, delegated by WB6 CIF
	Mr. Antonio NOVO, European Cluster Collaboration Platform
	Ms. Sarianne TIKKANEN. Directorate-General for the Environment

13.30 - 14:30	LUNCH
14:30 – 15:30	Ways forward to improving regional cooperation mechanisms on the CE in the Western Balkans/Q&A Session
	Moderator: Ms. Ivana MARKOVIC BOSKOVIC, Senior Expert on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, RCC
	Mr. Kelmend ZAJAZI, Executive Director, NALAS
	Ms. Vera STROBACHOVA-BUDWAY , Senior Economic Officer, Head of the Economic Governance Unit, OSCE
	Ms. Jovana PAVLOVIC-DJUKIC , Team Lead on Green Economy and Sustainability, OECD
	Ms. Iskra STOJANOVA, Western Balkan Projects Coordinator, UNEP
	Ms. Emilija JOVANOVA STOILKOVA, Regional Manager for the Western Balkans, Helvetas, RECONOMY Programme, funded by SIDA
	Mr. Marian MRAZ, Regional Economist, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
	Mr. Oliver AVRAMOSKI, Regional Director, ECARO, IÚCN
15:30- 16:00	Closing remarks/Main Takeaways
	Regional Cooperation Council
	Mr. Alessandro BIANCARDI, Deputy Head of Cooperation, EU Office, Pristina
16:00	Cocktail