

SESSION I: (10.30 - 11.30 a.m.)

The first session, “*Enhancing the role of the private sector in the work of the Committee on Environmental Policy and the ‘Environment for Europe’ ministerial process*” will aim to identify ways to forge successful partnerships between the public and the private sector, as well as improve these partnerships’ quality, so that they better serve the interests of the broader community. Lessons learned from the experience of existing partnerships between the private sector and national and/or local governments will be discussed.

Chair: Mr John Matuszak
CEP Bureau member

Keynote addresses:

Mr Marc Darras

Direction de la Stratégie et du
Développement Durable, *GDF Suez*

Ms Svetlana Ivanova

Manager, *Kazakh Business Council for Sustainable Development*

Mr George Weyerhaeuser

Senior Fellow, Energy and Climate,
World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Ms Sylvia Lee

Associate Director, Environment Team,
World Economic Forum

Questions and interactive discussion

Issues for consideration for representatives of the private sector:

- (a) What are the key challenges, benefits and drawbacks your organization has experienced while working with governments?
- (b) How can the key challenges be addressed?
- (c) How would engaging in CEP and EfE activities provide more efficient ways to achieve maximum benefit for your organization's/association's shareholders and constituencies?
- (d) How can your organization's resources and hands-on experience be used to identify and expand areas of mutual interest?

Issues for consideration for CEP representatives

- (a) How can private sector involvement increase the relevance of the CEP work vis-à-vis the broader global agenda on the environment?
- (b) How can the EfE process better engage the interest of the private sector?
- (c) How can private sector involvement strengthen implementation and improve results of existing activities, and what are the potential obstacles?

SESSION II: (11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.)

The second session will have as its topic “*Water Supply and Sanitation within the context of integrated water resource management*”. In recent years, with the affirmation of the principle of integrated water resources management and of water governance there has been a progressive change in common notions of water-related policies. The notion of government as the single decision-making authority has been replaced by one of multi-scale, polycentric governance. In this context the private sector can play different roles: it can support the protection of the water resources through economic incentives (e.g. payments for ecosystems services or voluntary pollution reduction policies); promote water saving technologies and reduce its water foot-print or partner with the public sector to improve access to water supply and sanitation, which fares prominently as one of the targets of the United Nations’ Millennium Developments Goals.

Chair: Mr. Massimo Cozzone,
CEP Bureau

Keynote addresses:

Mr. Frits Holzwarth

Water Director, *Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany*

Mr. Juerg Gerber

Corporate and External Affairs, *Rio Tinto Alcan*

Mr. Tony Baynes

Director Public Affairs and Communications,
Coca-Cola Hellenic Group

Mr. Christian Frutiger

Public Affairs Manager, *Nestlé S.A*

Questions and interactive discussion

Issues for consideration for representatives of the business sector:

- (a) What are the key challenges, benefits and drawbacks your organization has experienced while working with national or local governments?
- (b) How can the key challenges be addressed?
- (c) What are the environmental and socio-economic impacts of your organization's work in various countries, especially those with economies in transition? What are the lessons learned from this exercise?
- (d) How would engaging in CEP and EfE activities provide more efficient ways to achieve maximum benefit to your organization's/association's shareholders and constituencies?
- (e) How can your organization's resources and hands-on experience be used to identify or even expand areas of mutual interest?

Issues for consideration for CEP representatives

- (a) Are there areas of potential partnership with the private sector which have not been sufficiently exploited?
- (b) How can the aims of the EfE process better engage the interest of the private sector?
- (c) How can the involvement of the private sector strengthen implementation and improve results of existing activities? What are the potential obstacles?
- (d) How can the involvement of the private sector increase the relevance of the CEP work vis-à-vis the broader global agenda on water and water services?



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Environment, Housing and Land Management Division (EHLM)
Palais des Nations
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**For more information Visit our website:
<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/welcome.html>**

[About the Committee on Environmental Policy and the 'Environment for Europe' process](#)

The Committee on Environmental Policy of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is an intergovernmental body that consists of 56 member States and provides collective policy direction in the area of environment and sustainable development, prepares ministerial meetings, develops international environmental law and supports international initiatives in the region. The "Environment for Europe" is an intergovernmental process that serves as a mechanism for improving international environmental governance by providing a platform for delivering multilateral policy and legal instruments. Its general objectives are to address environmental problems in the region and to help countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and central Asia and South-Eastern Europe raise their standards towards a similar standard existing in the rest of the region.

**United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe**



**UNECE roundtable discussion on
enhancing the involvement of the
private sector in ECE environmental
activities**

Geneva, 13 October 2008

From 10.30 – 13.00

Salle XIX