

## **Dusan Stokic, Serbian Chamber of Commerce (intervention)<sup>1</sup>**

Mister/Miss Chairman, dear delegates,

It is my great pleasure to address you on behalf of Serbian Chamber of Commerce as an association of business sector.

As we know, the Marrakech process is an international effort to formulate 10-year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Business community, no doubt, affect on global, regional, national and local environmental issues.

Many companies, especially SMEs, face numerous barriers in transitioning to business excellence and more sustainable business models, such as lack of information, financial and technical resources and institutional bias from complex regulations.

Large, state-owned companies in transitional economies are faced with process of restructuring and privatization and necessity of finding appropriate financial solutions for new technologies, improvement of productivity and eco-efficiency.

The environmental impact of products and services depend how they interact with the surrounding socio-economic and technical systems, sectors and actors along their lifecycle.

During the last decade a number of new product policies have been developed, such as, extended producer responsibility (EPR) principle aiming at improving end-of-life management and including product innovation. Eco-labels are an effective tool to communicate the environmental properties of sustainable products. Their success is linked to the level of consumer awareness and marketing efforts.

Serbian Chamber of Commerce see that responsible business and industry can play a major role in improving resource efficiency, driving economic growth, enhance social well-being, minimizing waste and environmental impact. Essential challenge of sustainable consumption and production is to de-link economic activity from environmental degradation.

Finally, I would like to underline that SCC supports and encourages strong partnership/dialogue, communication and cooperation of our member companies, with all stakeholders: Government, Local community, NGOs, Universities, Financial institutions, Media.

We recognise Sustainable consumption and production as a tool for process improvement, eco-programs, implementation of environmental, health and safety standards, development of green products and clean technologies, EMAS registration. Corporate social responsibility, Social responsibility, Responsibility in all aspects!

Business should be a true partner in building bridges to the future!

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