

Tamara Malkova, Information Center "Green Dossier" on behalf of European ECO Forum

**WGP-24: Agenda point 8 - Promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums**

Promotion of the Convention's principles in the international trade negotiations

Thank you, chair!

Three countries of Eastern Partnership (EaP), Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, have Association Agreements (AA) with EU. I represent here EaP Civil Society Forum (its environmental and climate working group), but speaking now about Ukrainian experience. Under Chapter 13 'Trade and Sustainable Development' of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) the Council on Trade and Sustainable Development was established as a consultative and advisory body for the Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine. CSOs participate in the Council with equal representation of three sectors – economy, environment and social. (I'm a member of the Council as well). Then civil society advisory groups in both, Ukraine and EU, were established, with the same approach - equal representation of three sectors. Once a year Domestic Advisory Groups organize a Civil Society Forum in parallel with official meetings of Trade and Sustainable Development Sub-Committees. Such forum, organised by our Ukrainian Advisory Group, took place just yesterday. We were informed by the Sub-Committees officials about results of their meeting a day before. We were surprised that their official statement doesn't apply to European Green Deal and consists minimum of environmental topics. In the same time, Recommendations prepared by Advisory Groups and discussed at the forum mainly are focusing at environmental issues and EGD. We were informed that our recommendations will be taken into account by official bodies, as usually. We will have possibilities, as usually, evaluate the process, and changes in policy and legislation.

I would say – it is not easy to come to common solutions in our three-winged groups, but looks like this way of public participation is quite effective.

Tamara Malkova,

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