



**BETTER  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
REGULATION:  
MAKING  
LAW WORK**

**Invitation  
to a Side Event on  
Thursday, 11 October 2007  
13:00 – 15:00  
Room 6/1**

The Belgrade “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference is seen as a conference of delivery. Indeed, since 2003, many countries launched initiatives to strengthen the implementation of their environmental laws and policies. Getting better environmental outcomes through improved efficiency of regulation and reduced administrative burdens are the key objectives of such initiatives. In order to share experiences and identify future work in this area, the EAP Task Force Secretariat invites you to attend this side event.

**The side event will be conducted in English and Russian with simultaneous interpretation.**

## **What does “Better Regulation” mean?**

Modern regulation aims at a high level of environmental protection at least cost to society. Lately, many OECD countries recognised the need for a regulatory system that chooses regulatory and non-regulatory measures according to the specific context of the environmental issue and the regulated community. The key objective of improved regulation is to increase the polluters’ responsibility for the environment and, at the same time, to increase their flexibility in reaching compliance. It also seeks to minimise the bureaucratic burden on firms and to focus on environmental outcomes.

The “Better Regulation” initiative is a centrepiece of the European Commission’s “Partnership for Growth and Jobs” (also known as the renewed Lisbon Strategy) launched in 2005. Its key objective is to ensure that the regulatory environment is simple and of high quality, since the regulatory framework in which businesses operate is a key factor of their competitiveness, growth, and employment performance.

The OECD also actively promotes the efficiency and effectiveness of regulatory policies in its member and non-member countries. In 2005, its “Guiding Principles for Regulatory Quality and Performance” called on countries to adopt at a political level broad programmes of regulatory reform to ensure that “regulations meet their intended objectives efficiently and effectively in a changing and complex economic and social environment”.

Commonly, these programmes include setting quantitative targets to reduce administrative burdens when drafting new and reviewing older regulations; codification; better multi-level co-ordination; and rapid introduction of e-government services.

**How to best apply these concepts to environmental management in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia?**

# Agenda

- 13.00**            **Light lunch and refreshments**
- 13.15**            **Welcoming address and introduction**  
Mr. Hugo von Meijenfeldt, Director International Affairs of the Netherlands' Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment, chairing the seminar
- 13.30**            **Better environmental regulation: Opportunities for policy dialogue**  
Mr. Brendan Gillespie, Head of the EAP Task Force Secretariat, OECD.
- 13.45**            **Benefits and challenges of the regulatory reforms in Georgia**  
Mr. Zaal Lomtadze, Head of Department Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources
- 14.00**            **What does industry expect from regulators?**  
Ms. Natalia Voronovich, NIKOCHEM Ltd., Russia
- 14.15**            **Adopting better environmental regulation in the United Kingdom**  
Mr. Martin Quinn, Future Regulation Strategy Team Environment Agency of England and Wales
- 14.30**            **Questions and discussion**

Over the past several years, the OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat has developed a series of tools which could support better regulation and strengthened compliance with environmental requirements in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia. They identify guiding principles, methodological, organisational and financial management approaches and other key structural elements of effective environmental compliance assurance systems.

### **Decision-Making Tools and Analytical Studies**

- Guiding Principles for Reform of Environmental Enforcement Authorities in Transition Economies
- Translating Environmental Law into Practice: Progress in Modernising Environmental Regulation and Compliance Assurance in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia
- Guiding Principles for Effective Environmental Permitting Systems
- Integrated Environmental Permitting Guidelines
- Assuring Environmental Compliance: A Toolkit for Building Better Environmental Inspectorates
- Funding Environmental Compliance Assurance: Lessons Learned from International Experience

### **Country-specific Demonstration Projects**

- Peer Reviews of Environmental Compliance Assurance Systems in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan
- Strategies for Transition to Integrated Permitting in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, and Georgia
- Reform of Self-Monitoring in Kazakhstan
- Industry Performance Rating in Ukraine

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