



Regional Cooperation Council

DRAFT AGENDA

First meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans Vienna, Austria

15-16 November 2023
(Ingen-Housz-Gasse 3, 1090 Vienna, Austria)

Day 1, 15 November 2023

09.00 – 9.30 **Registration**

9.30 – 9.45 **Opening remarks**

Pranvera Kastrati, RCC Acting Head of Programme Department – **Online**

Georg Rebernig, Umweltbundesamt Managing Director, EU4Green Project - TBC

Jelena Milos, Policy Coordinator Environment, Climate Change, DG NEAR, European Commission

9.45 – 11.00 **Session on the region's climate resilience and adaptation to the unavoidable impacts of climate change**

The purpose of this session is to discuss the preparation of the Western Balkans Regional Adaptation Strategy (RAS), in addition to alignment with EU Climate Law, considering that this is the main aim of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB). GIZ will provide a presentation on their plans for a regional project on climate adaptation measures. In addition, discussions are needed with RWG members, especially partner organisations to clearly define the roles under this pillar of the Green Agenda.

- **Tour de table of members of the Regional Working Group;**
- **Markus Leitner, TRATOLOW project expert**
- **Boban Ilic, SWG RRD**
- **Andrea Goertler, representative of new GIZ project to support GA**

Moderator: **Ivana Markovic Boskovic**, Senior Expert on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, RCC

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee break

11:15– 13.15 Session on the implementation of the Regional Joint Statement on Prevention of Plastic Pollution, including Marine Litter

The purpose of this session is to discuss the planning following up on the high-level endorsement of the RCC-led deliverable under GAWB, namely the Regional Joint Statement on Prevention of Plastic Pollution, including Marine Litter. The adopted CE Operational Plan lists as a Key Activity, the finalisation and implementation of the regional joint statement. This session will discuss the way forward to address water body pollution in the Western Balkans, especially from plastic litter, and how the region will contribute to the EU efforts in addressing this issue. Presentations will assist discussions and the aim of the session will be to identify and agree on further steps that will guide the implementation of the joint regional statement.

- **Tour de table of members of the Regional Working Group**
- **Phillipp Steinheim**, Programme Manager, Integrated Waste Management and Marine Litter Prevention in the Western Balkans, GIZ
- **Tassos Krommydas**, Senior Programme Officer, GWP Med
- **Stephan Nemetz**, Water Pollution, Environment Agency Austria

Moderator: **Ivana Markovic Boskovic**, Senior Expert on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, RCC

13:15– 14.15 Lunch Break

14.15 – 15.45 Session on improving the process of regional monitoring and reporting on the implementation of GAWB

The purpose of this session is to discuss the monitoring and reporting process at the regional level on the implementation of the GAWB Action Plan, especially on the basis of the first annual report. Participants will provide feedback and lessons learned when drafting the first report, with further discussions on improving the second annual report.

- **Tour de table of members of the Regional Working Group**
- **Tour de table – EC and Regional organizations** (Energy Community Secretariat, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Standing Working Group on Regional Rural Development, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat)
- **Peter Tramberend**, EU4Green project

Moderator: **Marv Barbullushi**, Expert on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, RCC

15.45 – 16.30 **Session on 2024 priorities on the implementation of the GAWB Action Plan**

This session will provide a platform for outlining, discussing and agreeing on the main, but not limited to RCC-led priorities to facilitate the implementation of the GAWB. The outcome of this session will provide a key input for the PM Sherpas discussions and the RCC work on the GAWB.

- **Ivana Markovic-Boskovic**, Senior Expert on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, RCC
- **Tour de table of members of the Regional Working Group**
- **Tour de table – EC and Regional organizations** (Energy Community Secretariat, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Standing Working Group on Regional Rural Development, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat)

16.30-17.00 **AOB, closing remarks and next steps**
RCC

Joint meeting of the Regional Working Group on Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and Working Group on Industrial Development

Day 2, 16 November 2023

9.30 – 9.45 **Key take-aways from Day 1 & Opening remarks for Day 2**
RCC
Jelena Milos, DG NEAR, EC
Cillian Lohan, EESC

9.45 – 10.30 **Session on the Circular Economy (CE) activities**

The purpose of this session is to discuss on the activities related to CRM Regional Industrial Area's green and circular economy value chains and synergize with the activities of the GAWB's CE

Operational Plan. The discussions will focus on the importance of a Regional Stakeholders Platform on Circular Economy to increase awareness on CE and strengthen networks at regional level and beyond, by bringing together stakeholders of the region that have initiated efforts/created Circular Economy networks. The discussion will be followed by a presentation on the concept for the “Regional Western Balkans Coordination Meeting: Revolve to Evolve- Go Circular” planned for January 2024.

- **Evisi Kopliku, RCC**, Presentation on stakeholder mapping, key needs and challenges of circular economy stakeholders in the region; suggestions on a regional stakeholders platform and **Ivana Markovic Boskovic, RCC**, Presentation of the GAWB-CE Operational Plan;
- **Jovana Pavlovic Djukic, OECD**, updates on the project “Supporting Green Transition through Circular Economy Roadmaps and facilitating circular economy stakeholders’ exchange through Regional Circular Economy Peer Dialogue”;
- **Dr. Radman Šelmić, Advisor to the President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia for Green and Circular Economy**, on supporting stakeholders through a Centre for Circular Economy;
- **Ivana Markovic Boskovic, RCC, Olga Zhminko and Ulrich Kral EU4Green**, Environment Agency Austria, EU4Green and - Concept for the “Regional Western Balkans Coordination Meeting: Revolve to Evolve- Go Circular”

10.30 – 10.45 **Coffee break**

10:45– 12.00 *Session continuation*

- Tour de table of **the Regional Working Groups**
Discussion on the establishment of the CE stakeholders platform as the outcome of the Regional Western Balkans Coordination Meeting: Revolve to Evolve- Go Circular, and priorities for 2024
- **Conclusions**
RCC
EU4Green

Moderator: **Evisi Kopliku**, Expert on Competitiveness, RCC

12.00-12.30 **A.O.B**

12:30– 13.30 **Lunch**

