

**EEA side event for the Astana Ministerial Conference – September 22nd 2011:****‘Sharing information: SEIS and Eye on Earth for regular environmental reporting and assessments in the pan-European region’****Background**

The proposed Astana Ministerial Declaration emphasises the need for a regular process of environmental assessment, and the realisation of a Shared Environmental Information System for the pan-European region. An example of this is the *Europe’s Environment: An Assessment of Assessments*, where a SEIS application was used to bring together and analyse over 1000 assessments for the Astana conference. Further development of the EEA’s ‘Eye on Earth’ global information sharing platform will also improve the communication of pan-European environmental assessments. Many countries in the pan-European region have already embraced SEIS and Eye on Earth, while others, especially those to the east, have only begin to learn about the benefits of sharing information.

This side event will provide examples of the potential and opportunities platforms and applications, such as Eye On Earth, give to enable this sharing. It will also identify how the countries involved in the ‘Environment for Europe’ process will benefit, to maximize the country contribution for improving environmental assessment at different scales across the region.

Venue: Room A3

Duration: 13:15 – 14:45

Agenda

13:15 **‘Sharing information: SEIS and Eye on Earth for regular environmental reporting and assessments’**
Prof. Jacqueline McGlade – Executive Director, European Environment Agency

13:35 **‘Why should we share data and what is needed to realise this in the pan-European region?’**
Round table discussion moderated by *Prof. Jacqueline McGlade*

Questions for discussion:

- What are the benefits of sharing information for a regular process of environmental assessments?
- What are the steps involved in sharing environmental information?
- How can that be achieved?

Invited round table panellists:

Ms. Erzsebet Gergely, Deputy Head of the Department of Strategy, Ministry of Rural Development, HU
Mr. Andrzej Jagusiewicz, Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection, European Federation of Clean Air and Environmental Protection Association (EFCA), PL

Mr. Mikhail Kokine, Programme Manager, Environmental Monitoring, Indicators and Assessments, UNECE

Mr. Talaybek Makeyev, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia

Mr. Philip Mikos, Head of Unit, Regional Programme, Neighbourhood East DEVCO, European Commission

Mr. Adriaan Oudeman, Policy Advisor, International Affairs Directorate, Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, NL

Mr. Georg Rebernik, Managing Director, Austrian Environment Agency, AT

Mr. Chris Steenmans, SEIS Programme Manager, European Environment Agency

Discussion with participants

Refreshments will be served.