



INNOVATIVE
SOLUTIONS
TO POLLUTION
IN SOUTH EAST
& SOUTHERN
EUROPE



The Fourth United Nations
Environment Assembly
of the United Nations
Environment Programme

SIDE EVENT

Addressing Pollution in South East and Southern Europe

Outcome of the Ministerial Conference “Innovative Solutions to Pollution in South East and Southern Europe”

Fourth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

12 March 2019

18:00 to 19:30 hours - Conference room 1

Nairobi, Kenya

Background

Pollution is a universal challenge that does not respect national boundaries and contributes to the death of millions of people every year. It has been estimated that approximately 19 million premature deaths take place each year because of the way societies use natural resources: this is having tremendous impacts on our biodiversity and ecosystems.

South East European countries¹ share high-quality environmental and natural resources, yet also face serious challenges related to environmental pollution. For example, in the Western Balkans, cities rank among the worst in Europe for air pollution, most waste-water is not treated before ending up in the sea or rivers, and waste is dumped in illegal landfills.

On 4-5 December 2018, countries from South East and Southern Europe gathered at the Ministerial Conference “[Innovative Solutions to Pollution in South East and Southern Europe](#)” to discuss how pollution can be curbed to the benefit of the environment, health and economies. The Conference, organised by UN Environment and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, with the support from the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, presented practical examples of innovative solutions in the field of pollution monitoring, reduction and prevention.

¹ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey



Republic of Serbia
MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE

Objective of the side-event

At the side-event, a presentation on the state of pollution in South East Europe and the “[Joint Regional Vision on Innovative Solutions to Pollution](#)”, will be followed by an interactive discussion among high-level decision makers, NGOs and private sector from South Eastern Europe. This discussion will have a special focus on the next steps to implement the outcomes of the Belgrade Conference through regional cooperation.

Draft Programme

18:00 – 18:05	Interactive presentation and video “Once and for All – Beat Pollution in the Western Balkans” , Mr. Harald Egerer, UN Environment
18:05 – 18:20	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, DG Environment, European Commission Mr. Satya S. Tripathi, Assistant Secretary General and Chief of UN Environment Office in New York City
18:20 – 19:15	<p>Panel discussion: Pollution in South East Europe, the next step</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Srdjan Sušić, Secretary General, Association for Packaging and Environmental Protection of Serbia</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Mr. Goran Trivan, Minister of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia Ms. Ornela Çuçi, Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism of Albania Ms. Ana Petrovska, State Secretary of North Macedonia H.E. Mr. Milorad Scepanovic, Permanent Representative of Montenegro to UN Environment Mr. Giovanni Brunelli, Head of Division, Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Mr. Gaetano Leone, Coordinator, UN Environment / Mediterranean Action Plan Ms. Bistra Mihaylova, Policy Officer, Women Engage for a Common Future

19:15 – 19:25	Regional cooperation to Beat Pollution in South East Europe Harald Egerer, UN Environment
19:25 – 19:30	Closing remarks

Key partners

- Government of the Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Environmental Protection
- Government of the Republic of Italy, Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea
- UN Environment

Contacts for further information

Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of Office, UN Environment – Vienna Programme Office

harald.egerer@un.org, +43 669 1459 4545

Mr. Filippo Montalbetti, Environmental Affairs Specialist, UN Environment – Vienna Programme Office

filippo.montalbetti@un.org, +43 126060 5412

