Background

The 1992 Rio Declaration, endorsed by world leaders, stated under Principle 10 that: "Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level." Since then, countries and organisations have been looking into the best solutions for implementing this objective. In Europe, the 1998 Arhus Convention, followed shortly at the EU level by the Directive on Access to information, were trying from a regulatory perspective to respond to this demand. At the global level, the Bali guidelines adopted in 2010 under UNEP auspices also supported the development of national legislation in the field of access to information. In practical terms, efforts are being made by countries and organisations to increase the accessibility to and the multiple use of available environmental information.

Objectives

The present event aims to take stock of major developments in translating into action Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, and the concrete future steps envisaged by different stakeholders for improving the sharing of and access to environmental information.

Expected outcomes

- Promote the need of opening the access to and sharing of environmental information and knowledge as an instrument for change, for the transition towards a greening economy and achieving sustainable development.
- Provide solid evidence and concrete arguments in support of the draft Rio Declaration which refers to the development of a sharing platform for environmental information and knowledge.

Agenda

- Introduction and an overview of initiatives supported by the European Environment Agency to improve the sharing of environmental information.
- Panel: a number of questions looking ahead into the expected outcomes
 of various initiatives related to the sharing of and access to information
 will be addressed by a number of distinguished speakers.
- Discussion with participants
- Announcement of the launch of the Eye on Earth "mashup" competition.

Refreshments will be served.

Invited speakers

Mr. Sven Alkalaj – Executive Secretary, UNECE

Ms. Manuela Soares – Director, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation

Mr.Talaibek Makeev – Director, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia

Mr. Frank McCosker – Managing Director, Global Strategic Accounts, Microsoft

Ms. Carmelle Terborgh – Federal/Global Affairs Team Lead and Account Manager, ESRI

Mr. Peter Gilruth – Director, Division of Early Warning and Assessment, United Nations Environment Programme

The discussion will be moderated by **Ms. Jacqueline McGlade** – Executive Director, European Environment Agency





European Environment Agency

Sharing environmental information in action

European Union Pavilion 00:61 - 00:71 Tuesday, 19 June 2012 fEA side event



You can find us here:

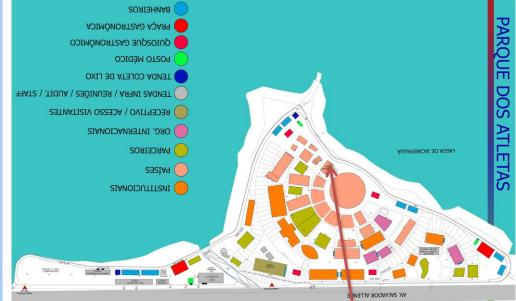
European Pavilion of the EU delegation

Parque dos Atletas, located near the main conference venue, Rio

Centro

PLANTA GERAL





European Environment Agency

Copenhagen 1050 Kongens Nytorv 6

Denmark

Tel.: +45 3336 7100

Fax: +45 3336 7199

www.eyeonearth.org www.eea.europa.eu



