

## 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 Aarhus 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*

## Sharing environmental information in action

EEA side event  
 Tuesday, 19 June 2012  
 17:00 – 19:00  
 European Union Pavilion



European Environment Agency



**RIO+20**  
 United Nations  
 Conference on  
 Sustainable  
 Development

**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  
 Kongens Nytorv 6  
 Copenhagen 1050  
 Denmark  
 Tel.: +45 3336 7100  
 Fax: +45 3336 7199  
 www.eea.europa.eu  
 www.eyonearth.org



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