

3 December 2013

*Interregional Debate 1*

**“Green Industry and sustainable development”**



The realization of inclusive and sustainable industrial development is central to resolving today’s most pressing environmental challenges brought about by national and regional economic growth in many parts of the world. The need to counteract the adverse environmental consequences of manufacturing is given additional urgency through rapid population growth and a corresponding increase in the global demand for resources and products. Thus, there is growing recognition that a new and sustainable model of economic growth is urgently required. At the centre of this new growth model is the need to decouple economic growth from increased raw material usage and negative environmental impacts - a need for “Green Industry”.

This interregional debate will focus on the concrete role of industry in the realization of more sustainable models of industrial production through the adoption and scaling up of Green Industry policies and practices. By discussing current best practice as well as advanced technologies, the event will showcase the ways in which industry can take a leadership role in the adoption and promotion of a sustainable growth model.

The debate will begin with a short introductory speech, which will serve to set the scene for the plenary and lay out in concrete terms why the current model of economic growth is unsustainable and through which concrete means a Green Industry approach can create sustainable growth.

Each panelist will subsequently be introduced to the plenary, and will engage in a moderated discussion focusing on questions ranging from how countries can implement Green Industry strategies at different stages of development, to how Green Industry can contribute to poverty reduction in the short and medium term. Additionally, specific examples will be sought from public and private sector participants on what type of policy instruments have been successful in promoting sustainable industrial development and what initiatives, both individually and in partnership, the private sector has taken to “green” industrial production.

The discussion will conclude with an interactive segment in which panelists respond to questions from the floor. The debate’s moderator will facilitate the exchange between audience and panel and will seek to connect the most appropriate panelists with relevant questions where necessary.

**Participants at the debate will focus on the following questions:**

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- How can countries implement green industry strategies while taking into account different stages of development?
  - How can green industry contribute to reduce poverty in the short and medium term?
  - Why should national governments promote green industry strategies and what kind of instruments can be implemented?
  - Are enterprises aware of the importance of implementing green industry strategies?
  - How do private-public partnership schemes support green industry strategies?
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**Panelists:**

**Chunhong Chen**, Chairwoman and Chief Executive Officer, Yiyuan (Shanghai) Environmental Group Co., Ltd.; **Hans-Peter Egler**, Head of Trade Promotion, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland;; **Sergio Thiesen**, Managing Director for Latin America, Braskem; **Le Hoai Trung**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations

**Video Message:** **Janez Potočnik**, European Commissioner for the Environment

**Moderator:** **Paul Hohnen**, Founder, Sustainability Strategies