

Annotated agenda

Workshop on Green Recovery and Technologies in Central Asia

28th of April 2021, 10:00 Central European Time

CONTEXT

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic organizes this workshop in order to advance in the process of preparation of the contribution of the Slovak Republic to the EU-Central Asia Economic Forum (EF), which is planned to be held in Bishkek this year.

The EF is part of the implementation of a new EU Strategy on Central Asia adopted in July 2019, which has an ambition to open a process that will support the implementation of EU programs in the region, while an active contribution of other international organizations is also expected. The EF will respond to the region's priority needs in respect of sustainable economic development.

THEME

The main theme of this workshop is "*Engagement in Water Management Development in Central Asia*", which falls under one of the priorities of the EF: "Exploring opportunities for green trade, investment and cooperation in Central Asia". We will primarily focus on the possibilities of long-term engagement of the Slovak Republic in water management development in the Central Asian region.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this workshop is to bring together international organisations, representatives from five Central Asian countries, as well as business entities, to discuss ideas for future projects in green trade and investments, especially in the water management sector.

The discussion aims to:

- Allow for the presentation of perspectives of our Central Asian partners on their domestic development needs, as well as presentation of the international financial instruments and their capacity to engage in this area.
- Present potential solutions by which Slovak entities would contribute to the fulfillment of the EU priorities through cooperation in the green economy sector.
- Identify partners that would be interested in the proposed solutions.

Proposal of the contribution of the Slovak Republic will be based on its capacities of long-term economic engagement in the Central Asian region, including its potential of involvement in international development programs.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Water is a basic condition of life. Its management and its effective use is a condition for long-term sustainable growth and preservation of the environment. Proper water management and use of water resources enables positive preparation for climate change.

- Monitoring the amount of water for irrigation is a condition for monitoring the use and management of water in the regions. At the same time, it will make it possible to prevent tensions between countries in border areas.
- Making use of the existing hydropower potential by generating electricity at irrigation consumption points increases the efficiency of the use of water resources.
- Flood prevention and flood protection is at the same time protection against the threat of contamination of large areas from flooded industrial buildings, contaminated sludge from sludge ponds and sediments from water reservoirs.
- Construction of automated data collection and autonomous warning and notification systems will make it possible to prevent accidents in waterworks, ecological damage and in the event of unforeseen accidents, to warn the endangered population in good time.
- Recycling of water for secondary use at the point of consumption (bio water purifiers, mainly decentralized for each end-user).
- Use of remote ground reconnaissance methods in water management and evaluation of extreme hydrometeorological situations. Monitoring and evaluation of drought impacts on water protection and their rational use.

PROGRAMME

10:00 - 10:10	Opening of the event	Ingrid Brocková State Secretary of MFEA (SK) Farhod Arzijev, First Deputy Minister of MFA (UZ)
10:10 - 11:00	Engaging International Organisations in Water Management Development in Central Asia	Moderator: Ingrid Brocková, State Secretary of MFEA SK Participants: EU Special Representative for Central Asia, EIB, EBRD, OSCE, UNECE, OECD
11:00 - 11:10	Opening of the Water Management Panel	Michal Kiča State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment (SK)
11:10 – 11:55	Water Management – Public Sector Perspectives	Moderator: Danka Thalmeinerová, Water Division of the Ministry of Environment (SK) Participants: Representatives of KZ, KG, TJ, TM, UZ, IWAC
11:55 – 12:40	Water Management – Sharing Experience of the Slovak Business Sector	Moderator: Danka Thalmeinerová, Water Division of the Ministry of Environment (SK) Participants: Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Representatives of the Slovak enterprises
12:40 - 12:50	Closing of the event	Ingrid Brocková, State Secretary of MFEA SK Peter Burian, EU Special Representative for Central Asia

1. Opening of the Workshop

Opening statements will be delivered by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Ingrid Brocková and the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Farhod Arziyev.

2. High-Level panel

“Engaging International Organisations in Water Management Development in Central Asia”

As a keynote speaker, the EUSR for Central Asia P. Burian will outline the main goals and ambitions of the upcoming Economic Forum to be held in Bishkek. Other high-level participants will present their vision and action on promoting cooperation in the area of green economy, especially in the water sector, to meet the environmental goals for regional development.

3. Opening of the Panel on Water Management

Opening statement for the panel discussion will be delivered by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Michal Kiča.

4. Part 1

“Water Management – Public Sector Perspectives”

Experts from Central Asia will be invited to assess the challenges faced by their respective water management sectors and present their strategies for solving these challenges.

5. Part 2

“Water Management – Sharing Experience of the Slovak Business Sector”

Slovak experts and representatives from the business community will have an opportunity to present ideas for specific solutions, including the presentation of the methods and technologies that would be suitable in addressing given challenges. The solutions will include the areas of drought management, water monitoring, design of small hydropower plants, proposals for efficient use of water resources, flood control measures, automated data collection and autonomous warning and notification systems, sustainable forestry methods, etc.

6. Closing of the Workshop

The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Ingrid Brocková and the EU Special Representative for Central Asia, Peter Burian will conclude the event by summarising the proceedings and outlining the next steps.

OUTCOME

A report from the workshop will be prepared and transmitted to our Central Asian partners and other relevant actors to continue our cooperation in the above-mentioned areas with the aim of achieving a long-term economic engagement with the Central Asian region, in the spirit of mutual priorities.

This discussion will help prepare the contribution of the Slovak Republic to the countries of Central Asia through the bi-regional Economic Forum and through the existing and planned programs of technical assistance and investment instruments.