

# REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

29 – 30 MARCH 2023 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE



## SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

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### Event title

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Scaling-up the 2030 Agenda means of implementation for sustainable structural transformation in South-Eastern Europe region

27 March 2023, 15:00-16:30, Palais des Nations, H building, Room 307-2 (Hybrid)

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### Background and Rationale

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Governments across the South-Eastern Europe region are focused on ensuring a simultaneous treatment of emerging needs in light of the current energy crisis and the pressing global challenges, particularly climate change. Innovation, a more circular economy and connectivity/trade facilitation are central to achieving these objectives. The three themes also feature prominently in the European Union's priority strategies and plans, including, among others, accelerating the implementation of the "European Green Deal" and "Fit for 55 Package" as well as the "New Circular Economy Action Plan" and the "New Industrial Strategy".

The three themes of innovation, circularity and trade facilitation, also feature prominently in the EU's priority strategies and plans, including, among others, accelerating the implementation of the "European Green Deal" and "Fit for 55 Package" as well as the "New Circular Economy Action Plan" and the "New Industrial Strategy".

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### Session objectives and expected outcomes

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This Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (ECTD)-hosted side event will bring together officials and stakeholders from the South-Eastern Europe region, other UNECE member States and the United Nations in an interactive panel discussion to:

- Highlight emerging trends in innovation, circularity and trade facilitation in the South-Eastern Europe region.
- Demonstrate how UNECE work streams and tools on SDG 9, 12 and 17 can support the implementation of the South-Eastern Europe region's national and sub-regional development plans in these areas.
- Discuss how UNECE could step up support to the South-Eastern Europe region's development plans and their alignment to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The outcome of the panel discussion will inform ECTD future work in support of the South-Eastern Europe region.

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## Organizers

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**Lead organizers:** UNECE

## Agenda and Structure

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### Welcome and keynote speech

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| 15:00-15:05 | Welcome by the moderator<br>Ms. Elisabeth Türk, Director, ECTD, UNECE  |
| 15:05-15:15 | Keynote speech<br>H.E. Ms. Désirée Schweitzer, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of to the United Nations Office and specialized institutions in Geneva |

### Unleashing innovation for competitiveness

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| 15:15-15:25 | H.E. Mr. Dejan Zlatanović, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva |
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### Scaling up circularity for economic resilient and structural transformation

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| 15:25-15:35 | Ms. Almira Xhembulla, Deputy Minister of Tourism and Environment, Albania |
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### Accelerating connectivity through trade facilitation

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| 15:35-15:45 | Ms. Slavica Kutirov, Director General of the Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance, North Macedonia |
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### Perspectives from the South-Eastern Europe region business community

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| 15:45 -15:52 | Mr. Lulzim Rafuna, Chairman, Western Balkans 6 Chamber Investment Forum |
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### Reflections on key challenges to scaling-up the 2030 Agenda means of implementation in the South-Eastern Europe region

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| 15:52-15:59 | Mr. Mario Holzner, Executive Director, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies, Austria |
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### Concluding remarks

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| 15:59-16:07 | Ms. Françoise Jacob, UN Resident Coordinator, Serbia |
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### Open discussion

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| 16:07-16:20 | Moderated by Ms. Elisabeth Türk, Director, ECTD, UNECE |
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### Wrap up by the moderator

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| 16:20-16:30 | Ms. Elisabeth Türk, Director, ECTD, UNECE |
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## List of Panellists

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- Ms. Elisabeth Türk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (ECTD), UNECE

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- H.E. Mr. Dejan Zlatanović, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
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[Sign-up / Registration Link](#)

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*Registration for online and in-person participation can be made [here](#)*

*In person participation: Palais des Nations, H building, Room 307-2*