



REGIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Results – Empowerment – Change: the REC towards the next 25 years

*The event is organised under the patronage of H.E. Mr. János Áder,
President of the Republic of Hungary*

Venue: REC Conference Centre, Ady Endre ut 9-11, Szentendre, Hungary

10-11 June 2015

| Wednesday 10 June 2015 | |
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| Time | Agenda item |
| 17:00 – 18:00 | Registration |
| 18:00 – 18:15 | Welcome Andrzej Kassenberg, Chair of Board of Directors, REC Marta Szigeti Bonifert, Executive Director, REC |
| 18:15 – 19:15 | Roundtable discussion Part 1: Results Moderator: Anita Orban, Consultant, Cheniere Ltd, former Ambassador for Energy Issues Rapporteur: Kenty Richardson, Director for International Relations, REC <i>A “before and after” retrospective on the REC’s key successes and highlights of 25 years. How have the REC programmes created results that benefit the stakeholders in the region?</i> Contributors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William K. Reilly, former Administrator of US Environmental Protection Agency • Timo Mäkelä, former Director, Global and Regional Challenges, LIFE, DG Environment, European Commission • Jaakko Henttonen, Director of Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership, EBRD • Zhaneta Prifti, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Environment, Albania • Iskandar Abdullaev, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia • Mel Horwitch, Dean, CEU Business School • Mario Molina, Director, Climate Reality Leadership Corps, The Climate Reality Project • Jeremy Wates, Secretary General, European Environmental Bureau |
| 19:30 – 21:30 | Garden Reception on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the REC Welcome: Miklos Verseghi-Nagy, Mayor of the town of Szentendre |
| | <i>Note: Posters of REC flagship programmes will be displayed in the REC Conference Centre during the entire event</i> |



| Thursday 11 June 2015 | |
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| Time | Agenda Item |
| 08:30 – 09:30 | <i>Registration</i> |
| 09:30 – 09:45 | President's address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. János Áder, President of the Republic of Hungary |
| 09:45 – 10:20 | REC Founders' keynotes Chair: Andrzej Kassenberg, Chair of Board of Directors, REC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lek Kadeli, Acting Assistant Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency, with William K. Reilly, former Administrator of US Environmental Protection Agency Benedek Jávor, Vice-Chair, Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, European Parliament, with a video message from Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission Zsolt V. Németh, Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary |
| 10:20 – 10:30 | Signing ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signing of the REC Charter by Cyprus, represented by H.E. Antonios Theocharous, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to Hungary Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the REC and the Al Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research, represented by The Hon. Sheikha Fadyah S. Al Sabah, Chair of the Al Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research, Kuwait |
| 10:30 – 11:30 | High-level session Part 2: Empowerment Moderator: Elaine Wright, Professor, University of Pennsylvania Rapporteur: Gordana Kozhuharova, Regional Director for South Eastern Europe, REC <i>How have the REC programmes empowered beneficiaries and increased ownership and commitment to the organisation?</i> Contributors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hon. Sheikha Fadyah S. Al Sabah, Chair of the Al Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research, Kuwait H.E. Hamad Burhamah, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Hungary Senad Oprašić, Head of Department for Environment Protection, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina Ferid Agani, Minister for Environment and Spatial Planning, Kosovo* Krasimir Zhivkov, Deputy Minister of Environment and Water, Bulgaria Barbara Degani, Undersecretary, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy Lidija Stebernak, State Secretary, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia Elita Turka, Head of Administration, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU Ridha Gabouj, General Manager of Rural Engineering and Water operations, Ministry of Agriculture, Tunisia Ali Hayajneh, Head of Strategic Planning, Water Policies and Strategic Planning Directorate, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branimir Gvozdenović, Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Montenegro (video message) <p>* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.</p> |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | <i>Break & Press Conference</i> |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | <p>High-level session Part 3: Change</p> <p>Moderator: Jari Vilén, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe Rapporteur: Radoje Lausevic, Deputy Executive Director, REC</p> <p><i>How has the REC adapted to the constant change in the region to deliver successful programmes? How can change create opportunities and mandates for the REC to meet future challenges?</i></p> <p>Contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcin Korolec, Secretary of State, Government Plenipotentiary for Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment, Poland • Hannele Pokka, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Finland • Meelis Münt, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Environment, Estonia • Vojtech Ferencz, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Slovakia • Sergii Kurykin, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ukraine • H.E. Junichi Kosuge, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Japan in Budapest • Raffi V. Balian, Director, Regional Environmental, Science, Technology, and Health Hub Office, Embassy of the United States in Budapest • Ivan Zavadsky, Executive Secretary, ICPDR Secretariat • Aylin Çağlayan Özcan, Director, Sectoral Policies Directorate, Ministry of EU Affairs, Turkey • Ivica Radovic, Special Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Serbia |
| 13:00 – 13:30 | Summary of the key points of the sessions |
| 13:30 – 15:00 | <i>Lunch & Bilateral Meetings</i> |
| 15:00 – 17:00 | <p>Meeting of the REC General Assembly</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening of the meeting by the Executive Director and Chair of Board of Directors 2. Approval of the agenda and the minutes of GA 2014 3. Introduction to the debate on the implementation of the REC Strategy for 2016-2020 4. Discussion in working groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Result 1: Strengthened environmental governance; <i>Facilitator: Gunilla Eitrem, Member of the REC Board of Directors</i> • Result 2: Promoted low emission development, enhanced resilience to impacts of climate change, and fostered healthier lifestyles; <i>Facilitator: Melinda Kimble, Member of the REC Board of Directors</i> • Result 3: Improved natural resource management; <i>Facilitator: Timo Mäkelä, Member of the REC Board of Directors</i> 5. Reports of the working groups by the selected rapporteurs 6. Special recognitions by the Executive Director 7. Discussion and closing of the session |



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| 17:00 – 17:30 | <i>Break</i> |
| 17:30 – 18:30 | Meeting of the Signatories to the REC Charter (closed session for the Signatories) Chair: Andrzej Kassenberg, Chair of Board of Directors, REC <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Adoption of the Political Declaration and approval of the REC Strategy for 2016-20202. Signing of the International Agreement of the REC by the Government of Cyprus3. Election of the Members of the REC Board of Directors |
| 18:30 | <i>Social event for the participants and the REC staff</i> |