



Strengthening Capacities in the Western Balkans Countries to Address Environmental Problems through Remediation of High Priority Hot Spots

Media Advisory

What: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Montenegro is organizing a **Regional Expert Meeting, within the Western Balkans Environmental Hot Spots Programme (WBEP)**, with an aim to present the results and the achievements of the WBEP and to discuss the national challenges and priorities in reducing pollution and remediating the “brownfield” sites in the Western Balkans, as well as the steps for further regional cooperation in this area.

Welcome note:

Mr Alexander Avanesov, UNDP Resident Representative/UN Resident Coordinator in Montenegro

Importance of the regional cooperation in addressing environmental issues:

H.E. Mr. Branimir Gvozdenović, Minister of Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection of the Government of Montenegro

Support of the Government of the Kingdom of Netherlands to environmental programmes in the Western Balkans:

Ms. Zumreta Jahić, First Secretary of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Belgrade

UNDP's role in addressing environmental challenges in the Western Balkans:

Mr. Moises Venancio, Senior Programme Manager and Team Leader, UNDP Western Balkans Regional Bureau for Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States

When: **Thursday, 19 November 2009, 9:00 a.m.**

Where: **Hotel Maestral, Budva, Montenegro**

Note: Some of the above mentioned speakers will be available for additional media statements during the coffee break (9:30 -10:00 a.m.) in the Showroom, specially designed to present the results of the WBEP.

The Expert Meeting will host the environmental experts from six countries/ territories involved in the Western Balkans Environmental Programme (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and UNATSCR 1244 Kosovo), programme beneficiaries and partners, such as representatives of the national and local governments, management authorities of the remediated sites, civil society organizations and independent experts. Representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Cooperation Council and Regional Environmental Center will participate at the Meeting.



This 3 year long, 15 million USD worth Programme, funded by the Government of the Netherlands and coordinated by the regional hub based in UNDP Montenegro has united the efforts of 6 countries/territories in the Western Balkans around environmental and development issues after almost two decades of conflict and instability. This is the biggest regional environmental programme that UNDP has implemented in South Eastern Europe. The Programme is focused on the clean-up works needed to mitigate environmental and human health problems at the eight (8) selected locations as well as the institutional strengthening and capacity building that will secure sustainability of the Programme efforts.

For additional information, please contact:

Ms. Snežana Dragojević, UNDP Programme Associate for Capacity Building

tel: +382 20 231992; fax: +382 20 231993; mob: +382 69 060726

or e-mail: snezana.dragojevic@undp.org;

Ms. Ivana Vujović, UNDP Communications Assistant

tel: +382 20 231251; fax: +382 20 231644; mob: +382 69 681222

or e-mail: ivana.vujovic@undp.org;