

**Ms. Valentina Radjenovic**

Senior Associate, Ministry for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment  
Serbia and Montenegro

In the beginning I would like to express my gratefulness to organizers of such an interesting and important workshop on synergies of chemicals and waste management, as well as for the opportunity given to our Government representatives by the workshop sponsors.

*Ministry for Science and Environmental Protection – Directorate for Environmental Protection* is responsible for chemicals and waste management in the Republic of Serbia. Our main objective in present situation is the harmonisation with EU regulations and preparation of an adequate legislation for implementation of international conventions and establishment of sound chemicals and waste management in the Republic of Serbia. With limited human resources we are trying to find the best organization structure of the departments within Ministry. In that sense, our aim is to link the chemicals and waste management within the same department. Taking this into account, we plan to establish same the organization structure within the new Agency for Environmental Protection. In addition, we initiated the establishment of an intersectoral coordinating committee, which is tasked to make a link with other governmental and non-governmental institutions responsible for other parts areas of chemicals management.

Sharing the experience and information at the regional level would also help proper chemicals and waste management in our country, which would certainly benefit from learning about the experience of the countries currently accessing the EU and the transitional period. We find that regional network established for the implementation of Montreal Protocol could represent a good example of how it could be established, where we can collect and share experience not only regarding the implementation of international agreements related to chemicals and waste management, but also overall waste and chemicals management and their synergies.

Our second proposal is the establishment of common manual or guidance for customs officers and their training relating to the improvement of all chemicals comprised in the international agreements where necessary, according to the Convention provisions, supervision of chemicals and import/export of waste. This would also be the useful tool for the improvement of practice.

Further, we are supporting the implementation of Globally Harmonized System for Chemicals Classification and Labelling and we express our interest to become the member of Sub-committee of experts on GHS which will help our intentions regarding the future implementation in our country.

I personally admire the project financed by the Swiss Government relating to establishment of information system, network and database in Egypt (Egyptian Hazardous Substances Information & Management System), which was presented in Bangkok during the IFCS side event organized by the Swiss Government. I am of opinion that information system is the best tool for integrated chemicals management in every country. Finally, I would like to point out that we would be really grateful if we were given the opportunity to establish the same system in our country.