

Good morning

Dr. Aydin YLDIRIM, Deputy General Director of the General Directorate of Environmental Management from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry; Mr. Carlos Ansede Cornide Commercial Attaché at the Economic and Trade Office, Embassy of Spain in Turkey ; Mr. Musa Galip Eroglu, Chairman of the environmental working group TUSIAD, good morning and thank you very much for your assistance. Thanks also to all the companies that are here today and all the participants.

Thank you very much for being with us.

It's a pleasure to welcome you to this national forum on the best available techniques and integrated pollution prevention and control as mechanisms to enhance the green competitiveness in Turkey

Today is especially a great day for the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production, CP/RAC, as we have the opportunity to lunch in Turkey the GRECO INITIATIVE, a Green Competitiveness INITIATIVE. For us it's another step towards the promotion and the application of Best Available Techniques and Cleaner Production and the implementation of IPPC in this key country for the development in the Mediterranean.

Allow me to briefly tell you about our centre. CP/RAC, where the GRECO Initiative was born, is based in Barcelona and, since 1996, it is one of the 6 Regional Activity Centres of the Mediterranean Action Plan under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Program.

The overall mission of CP/RAC consists in promoting patterns of sustainable consumption and production in the Mediterranean. Likewise since 2008 the centre is also responsible for the elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants to the Mediterranean environment and, since May of the current year it has been appointed as Regional Centre for the Stockholm Convention.

Another important responsibility has come to us now, and that is the promotion of the GRECO INITIATIVE along the Mediterranean Region to support the "Green Competitiveness" concept based on Cleaner Production strategy and the application of the Best Available Techniques. The green competitiveness is a revolutionary concept which objective is to implement measures to improve companies' profitability along with environment benefits.

Today we are also signing one important document to promote the implementation of the GRECO Initiative, namely the Memorandum Of Understanding between the CP/RAC, the TUSAID and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Let me also remark the assistance of Mr. Gürdogar Sarigul, Development sector Manager from the European Commission Delegation to Turkey. Mr Sarigul will inform the assistants about the EU IPPC Directive and the likely implications for Turkey on accession to the EU. As many of you already know, the IPPC Directive has showed to be an effective mechanism through which EU countries can progressively introduce the the Best Available Techniques as elements in the authorization process for the most polluting industrial installations in order to achieve a high level of protection for the environment as a whole. That is, the legal mechanism to proceed towards green competitiveness.

With all that, we are very pleased that this Forum will be an opportunity to show how CP/RAC and the Turkish institutions will be keen on developing partnerships on the GRECO initiative and to hear, from both EU members and new member states, on the implications that the application of the IPPC has involved both to the prevention of pollution from the industrial sector and the upgrading of this sector through the application of cleaner techniques.

Let me thank you all once again for your attending to this National Forum.

Receive my gratitude and thank you very much.