



PRESS-RELEASE

European experts share their experience with their colleagues from Tajikistan in Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Dushanbe, 17 October 2013 – Within the EU – Central Asia Strategy for a New Partnership Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation, national training-seminar ‘Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)’ takes place in Dushanbe 17-18 October, 2013.

There were more than 40 participants from the national and regional organizations concerned about environmental issues and natural resources, representatives from the Committee on Environment Protection, Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water resources, Academy of Sciences, scientists societies, as well as leading national experts involved in the development of Environmental Impact Assessments took part in the training.

EIAs are being used as a tool for the environment protection and reduction of industry impacts since 60-es. The EIA procedures require both public consultations and local authorities and stakeholders. It serves as an effective tool for conflict prevention and environment conservation. Strategic Environmental Assessment is an additional process to EIA which supports strategic decisions while developing policies, long term plans and programmes.

The participants got acquainted with best practices in EIA of the EU member states, shared experience of EIA development in European Union and Central Asian states, development of EIA with transboundary contexts, and discuss issues related to the public participation in the EIAs developments and hearings.

Additional information on the event could be received from Ms Mahbuba Abdullaeva, Press and Information Officer, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Tajikistan via tel.: + 992 (37) 221-74-07 or e-mail Mahbuba.ABDULLAEVA@eeas.europa.eu, or at the website <http://www.wecoop-project.org> and Mr Anatoly Krutov, Team Leader of the Regional coordination and support for the EU – CA enhanced regional cooperation on Environment and Water (WECOOP) project. Mr Krutov's contacts are as follows: tel.; +7 (7172) 97 0708, e-mail: krutov.wecoop@landell-mills.com.

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The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders. To this end the EU is active in Tajikistan since 1992 and provides approximately EUR 25 million annually in development assistance.