

# Plenary Session 6: Global relevance and impact of environment and health policies in Europe

**Intervention by Olga Ponizova, on behalf of ECO Forum**

**15 June, 2017**

Thank you chair, I am Olga Ponizova of Eco-Accord Russia and co-chair of the European Eco-Forum.

Europe plays a very important role in global environment, and have also highly influenced by the world environmental situation. Therefore we think it would be highly important to provide better linkages with other processes and organizations whose activity can influence environment and health in Europe. Not only Environment for Europe, but also more close links with UNEA, SDG, Financing for Development, Aarhus Convention process and international organizations such as FAO, OECD, WTO, UNDP.

Also key is cooperation with major groups and stakeholders, engaged in the UN and other respective processes. Major groups stakeholders are recognized by the UN and allows civil society - in its diversity - to contribute to international policy processes. Of course, we need to ensure full transparency on civil society, that they represent non-governmental, pro-planet and not-for-profit interests. But we have very good practices in transparency and avoid conflict of interest. For example the Task Force should use the Public Participation guidelines of the Aarhus Convention in international processes.

We need to avoid the situation when governments select who from Civil Society is allowed to sit at the table, this would set a dangerous precedent. These issues have been discussed in Ostrava related to Annex 2 and we urge the E&H Task Force to ensure full and meaningful participation of Civil Society in its diversity.

Thank you