

## FLASH REPORT

# KAZAKHSTAN NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



### Background

On 12 November 2019, the SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility supported by the European Union Delegation to Kazakhstan organised the first Multi-stakeholder Consultation on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). The event brought together 30 stakeholders, including policy makers, practitioners and civil society to discuss challenges and identify national priorities on SCP, ultimately strengthening Kazakhstan's work towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and shifting towards a green and circular economy.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Johannes Stenbaek Madsen, Head of Cooperation of the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan, and Mr. Bekbergen Kerey, Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department, on behalf of the Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources.

The SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility experts explained then the importance of SCP and applied approach as well as presented the outcomes of Kazakhstan's national SCP assessment. Representative from the Government shared insights on the current policies related to SCP and Green Economy in Kazakhstan. Presentation were focused on new reduction of Eco-code, action plan on transition to green economy to the next decade (2021-2030), current situation with waste management and renewable energy. Representatives from UNEP and CAREC also shared their ongoing activities related to green economy and SCP. UNEP delivered information regarding regional environmental plan for sustainable development while CAREC shared information on on-going projects financed by world bank and EU, recently project on clean transport financed by UNEP.

These were then followed by an interactive discussion between the different stakeholders on current challenges, needs and opportunities, before the participants split in three groups focusing on Circular

Economy and industry 4.0, Energy efficiency in the construction sector and SCP Action Plan, each of the group structuring the discussions around three key issues: needs and challenges, priority actions and partnerships, way forward and recommendation for action.

## **Key Observations**

In his opening remarks, Mr. Johannes Stenbaek Madsen, Head of Cooperation of the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan, stressed the importance of the SWITCH-Asia programme, recently expanded to Central Asia, in further supporting the country's ongoing work and achievements towards green economy. Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, Mr. Bekbergen Kerey, Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department, stated that "Kazakhstan needs to focus on a few priorities to demonstrate how to induce and deliver change while strengthening collaboration between the various stakeholders, such as greening the supply chain in support to SMEs and promoting energy efficiency in the building sector, to that end, SCP is of great interest to Kazakhstan in this important transition period to promote green economy.

## **Recommendations and Next Steps**

Among other outcomes, the following could be highlighted:

- The need to further work on SCP, either through the preparation of an action plan on SCP and/or by actively mainstreaming SCP in other relevant policies and action plans such as green economy;
- Circular economy and Industry 4.0, should focus on greening the production processes with particular importance to waste minimization and waste to energy or waste as new resource;
- With regards to the building sector, legislation need to be better implemented and an independent system for assessing energy efficiency should be established;
- Business sector and civil society representatives need to be better consulted and associated in the decision making process, through a well established participatory approach so as to break the usual top-down approach;
- Finally, targeted awareness raising is needed with adequate information made accessible to concerned stakeholders.

## **Follow-up Activities**

Follow-up activities might include, but are not limited to:

- The Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources will prepare a specific demand to be addressed to the EU Delegation to provide technical assistance on above issues, including the preparation of an SCP action plan, either as a stand-alone plan or as an Annex to the Action Plan to transition to green economy;
- The SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility will then prepare related concept note and plan of activities;
- Of particular attention would be the need to exchange relevant experience and good practices from other middle income economies, and also consider regional Central Asia activities such as green public procurement and eco-labelling.

Please find a few [photos](#) and the [press release](#) issued at the event, as well as the [Brochure](#), including the Agenda, some background information and an overview of speakers.